

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-7-52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/6-4/2/52</b>	TEM:egh
TITLE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; HARRY T. MOORE; HARRIETT MOORE (deceased) - VICTIMS</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>present Exalted Cy- clops, Orlando Klavern, Southern Knights, KKK, admits in signed statement he and fellow Klansmen participated in 5 "rides" during 1943-5 when 4 white persons and one negro were beaten. States BROOKLYN and [redacted] among participants in 3 "rides" and J. B. JOHNSON on one "ride". WILLARD SMITH admits in signed statement during 1947 he participated in 2 "rides" when white persons beaten. States BROOKLYN, [redacted] and THOMAS among participants. Additional inquiries among relatives and associates disclosed little or no info of value re BROOKLYN. Reinterview suspect BELVIN produced little of value. Stead- fastly denies participation or knowledge MOORE bombing. [redacted] admitted being Klansman but declined to furnish info re Klan because of oath; denied participation or knowledge terrorist activities or MOORE bombing. [redacted] admits being Klan member but denies activities in ter- rorist incidents or MOORE bombing. [redacted] [redacted] Sheriff, Madison Co., Fla., identified [redacted] as individual inquiring re MOORE at Mims as re- ported by [redacted] from Daytona Beach, during 1950. Additional investi- gation has not identified assailants of LUTHER COLEMAN.</p>			
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TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7c

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

	Pages
I. INVESTIGATION RE [REDACTED] EXALTED CYCLOPS, SOUTHERN KNIGHTS, KKK, ORLANDO	3 - 16
II. INVESTIGATION RE WILLARD SMITH	17 - 33
III. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT EARL J. BROOKLYN	34 - 41
IV. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN	42 - 52
V. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT [REDACTED]	53 - 54
VI. INVESTIGATION RE [REDACTED]	55 - 64
VII. MISCELLANEOUS	65 - 116

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7C  
b7D

I. INVESTIGATION RE [REDACTED] EXALTED  
CYCLOPS, SOUTHERN KNIGHTS, KKK, ORLANDO

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents  
JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 26, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [REDACTED] interviewed inasmuch  
as he was implicated in terrorist incidents and,  
according to WILLARD SMITH, participated in a ride  
when 2 young women, allegedly school teachers in  
Ocoee, Florida, were beaten.

\*\*\*

[REDACTED] who for the  
past three and one-half years has been [REDACTED] of the A & P  
store at 118 West Fairbanks, Winter Park, Florida, was interviewed at the  
Orlando Resident Agency.

He stated he never heard of HARRY T. MOORE except for what he  
read of MOORE's death in the newspaper. He knows nothing about the cause  
of MOORE's death except for speculation that Communists were involved in  
the Mims and Miami bombings. He claimed he heard from unknown sources that  
HARRY T. MOORE and his wife were card carrying Communists. According to  
[REDACTED] Communists committed the Miami and Mims bombings and tried to  
throw the blame on the Klan.

[REDACTED] claimed he has never heard of the existence of any paper  
such as the floor plans of MOORE's house. He did admit he had visited the  
Association of Georgia Klans Klavern at Apopka on several occasions and  
recalled seeing EARL J. BROOKLYN visiting there also.

When questioned about rides and terrorist activities he admitted  
he was on a couple of rides many years ago but stated they were much too  
long ago to remember. When questioned regarding the details of the rides  
he had been on he retracted his statement and insisted he was on only one  
and that occurred years ago, possibly in 1942 or 1943 in East Orange County.  
He related that at that time the meeting place of the Klan, then the old  
Ku Klux Klan of Orlando, was the old frame house on the Winter Garden Road  
at a location which is now occupied by the block building used by both the

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7c

Orlando and Winter Garden Klaverns of the Association of Georgia Klans. He insisted he joined the Klan late in 1942 and that at the time of this ride he was new at it and could only recall that EARL BROOKLYN was a participant in the ride. He claimed he could not recall the identity of the victim or any particulars of the ride or where the treatment was administered except that it was not a meeting night. He claimed that generally the ride concerned the beating of a white man who had been molesting a small girl.

He insisted this was the only ride he was on and the only ride in which he knows EARL BROOKLYN participated. He stated he has known EARL BROOKLYN for the past ten years but has not been in contact with him for the past three or four years. He could not recall whether or not CURLY ~~BELVIN~~ was in the Klan at that time.

He denied being on any ride in which two nude girls were taken out and beaten. When questioned regarding other terrorist incidents [ ] stated he recalled hearing that two young women school teachers had been taken out and given a beating for bathing nude but he could not furnish any details regarding the incident or the source of his information. It is noted that no reference was made by the Agents to the two girls allegedly being teachers. However, in reply to questions [ ] stated he did not have anything to do with "those teachers". When interrogated further on this point as to how he knew these girls were teachers he passed it off by saying that was what he heard or read in the newspapers. He further denied he had ever been on a ride involving any women.

[ ] who has been in the Orlando area since 1937, furnished the following information concerning his own Klan membership and activity. He joined the old Ku Klux Klan which was then under [ ] in 1942 at Orlando. After the national Klan broke up in 1944 the Florida Klan was formed and he remained in the Orlando Klavern of that Klan until 1948 when the Orlando Klavern of the Florida Klan ceased to exist by reason of the voluntary dissolution of the Florida Klan. He recalled that quite a few of the Klansmen from Orlando started to attend the Winter Garden Klan, then either the Association of Georgia Klans or independent. He believed there was a period of some six to nine months which elapsed until a charter was obtained from Dr. SAMUEL GREEN, Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans for a Klavern in Orlando in late 1949. He believed this occurred about two months before Dr. GREEN died. He was in Georgia Klans Klavern in Orlando only a few months until early 1950 when he and about fifteen other Klansmen pulled out of the Georgia Klans and started the Southern



JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

Knights Klavern in Orlando. It was his impression that the Georgia Klans Klavern in Winter Garden was then in existence. He claimed he has never joined or attended the Georgia Klans Klavern or any other Klan in Winter Garden and has never attended any meetings of the Georgia Klans while he has been in the Southern Knights. He admitted he is presently the Exalted Cyclops of the Southern Knights Klavern in Orlando and that the following individuals are the members of his Klokann Committee: [redacted]

[redacted] was formerly in the Florida Klan with him. [redacted] who held the office of Exalted Cyclops last year in the Southern Knights at Orlando and previously in the Old Florida Klan, is still active in the Southern Knights and attends meetings regularly. When questioned about [redacted] he said [redacted] had been in the Southern Knights when it was first started but he no longer is a member in that Klan.

[redacted] denied ever being Exalted Cyclops while in the Georgia Klans but did admit he was [redacted] in the Old Florida Klan at Orlando in 1946. He could not recall ever serving on the Klokann Committee while in the Georgia Klans or the Florida Klan and insisted he was never on the Klokann Committee with JAMES B. JOHNSON.

His decision to transfer from the Georgia to the Southern Knights was prompted by dissatisfaction with the operation of the Georgia Klans and the better program offered by the Southern Knights, particularly in fighting Communism.

When questioned specifically as to his knowledge of any friction which existed between the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans and Klansmen from other Klaverns, [redacted] stated that sometime after he joined the Southern Knights early in 1950 he heard there was friction between the Klansmen of the Apopka Association of Georgia Klans and the Winter Garden group and that thereafter visiting between those Klaverns was stopped. He insisted he never visited the Apopka Klavern while he was a member of the Georgia Klans and that the last time he attended or visited the Apopka Klavern other than the Southern Knights was in 1948 when [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops of that Klan. It is his opinion the Apopka Klan was already in the Georgia Klans for quite a while before the Orlando Klavern joined the Georgia Klans.

[redacted] made the following observations concerning persons mentioned.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

He believed [ ] is related to EARL BROOKLYN and used to attend the Orlando Association of Georgia Klans meetings.

[ ] was Exalted Cyclops in the Old Florida Klan but was never on a ride with [ ]

[ ] was never Exalted Cyclops while [ ] was in the Klan but is an old-time Klansman. He was never on a ride with [ ]

JAMES B. JOHNSON was in the Old Klan with [ ] but [ ] has not been in contact with JOHNSON for many years.

He knows [ ] casually but has never been on a ride with him.

He knows the following as Klansmen but has never been on a ride with them: BOY SUDGER [ ] MOSE BRYANT, [ ]

[ ] WILLARD SMITH, ADIS JERNIGAN, RAYMOND G. HOWELL and [ ]

When questioned specifically about [ ] stated he did not know him by name or photograph.

He was questioned about [ ] and the only information he could furnish was that [ ] worked for the Post Office.

"possible  
Redaction"

He was asked about [ ] but stated he did not know such a person but did know a [ ] was in the Southern Knights.

He knew [ ] but claimed he was not in the Southern Knights.

He stated [ ] has not been attending the Southern Knights meetings at Orlando for the past few months.

The following is a description of [ ] as obtained from interrogation and observation:

Race  
Sex  
Birth date  
Birthplace

white  
male

[ ]

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

Height  
Weight  
Eyes  
Hair  
Scars and marks  
Father  
Mother  
Former guardian

Wife

Son  
Daughter  
Sisters

Half brothers

Education

Residence  
Employment

Previous employment

Fingerprints

Photographs

deceased  
deceased

taken in various poses March 26,  
1952

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7C  
b7D

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on April 1 and 2, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [ ] telephonically contacted the Orlando Resident Agency April 1, 1952, to make an appointment for reinterview on the following day.

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On April 2, 1952, [ ] appeared voluntarily at the Orlando Resident Agency and advised that after reflection he had decided for the sake of his family to make a confession of the incidents of rides and terrorist activities in which he had been involved while a member of the Klan.

The following is a signed statement of [ ] incorporating that information concerning the five rides in which he was involved. The original of this statement is maintained in the files of the Miami Office.

"Orlando, Florida  
April 2, 1952

"I, [ ] do make the following voluntary statement to FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize that I do not have to make this statement. No threats or promises have been made to me to make it and I realize it can be used against me in a court of law. I have been advised that I have a right to an attorney.

"I joined the old Knights of the Ku Klux Klan late in 1942, was a member of the Klan when it was known as the Florida Klan, continued membership in the various organization of the Klan, specifically the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern in Orlando

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7C  
b7D

"and late in 1949 was a charter member of the Orlando Klavern of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, of which I am presently [redacted]

"I have been involved in five incidents which might be termed 'rides' or 'treatments' during my membership in the Klan.

The first incident occurred sometime in 1943. I can not recall which Klansman approached me to invite me to participate in this particular ride but I do know that the victim was a man with the surname of LUCAS who is described as white, 55 years, approximately 6', 180-200 pounds, brown greying hair, who was accused of [redacted] who lived in the vicinity of Tanner Road approximately 16 miles outside Orlando. I do recall it was not a meeting night of the Klan on which this ride occurred. EARL BROOKLYN was driving an automobile, the owner of which I do not recall, which picked me up at my house, [redacted] about 8:00 P.M. In the car with EARL BROOKLYN was [redacted] We drove and met a second car in downtown Orlando. This second car was occupied by [redacted] and O. G. JOHNSON, now deceased, and possibly another man whose identity I can not recall. The two cars drove out Cheney Highway to Tanner Road where the victim, LUCAS, was taken from his house. EARL BROOKLYN put his shoulder to the entrance to this man's home and knocked it down. EARL BROOKLYN and I brought the man out to our car. Then we drove off northwest off Tanner Road toward Oveido into a woods. LUCAS had a sack placed over his head at the time he was brought out of his house. He was stretched on the ground in the woods, his trousers were pulled down and he was beaten for several minutes with a wide leather strap attached to a round handle, the strap being approximately three feet long and four inches wide. Prior to the time he was beaten he was told the reason he was beaten. It is my understanding that [redacted] lived in the vicinity of the home of LUCAS and [redacted] who had [redacted] LUCAS had reported the grievance to [redacted] who was then the chief of the Klokann Committee of the Orlando-Winter Garden Klavern of the old Ku Klux Klan. EARL BROOKLYN and [redacted] performed most of the beating after which the man was left in the woods to walk home.

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7C  
b7D

"The second incident or ride in which I was involved occurred a short time afterward in 1943. Either EARL BROOKLYN or [redacted] approached me to go on this ride. The victims of this ride were a man and woman who lived in Winter Garden and were employed in one of the packing houses in Winter Garden. I had not seen either of these people before or since this incident. The man is described as white, [redacted] slim build, dark hair. The woman was white, [redacted] having a fairly tall slender build and dark hair. It is my understanding the man had left his wife and family and was living with the woman. There was only one car used in this ride which was owned by either EARL BROOKLYN or [redacted]. Both EARL BROOKLYN and [redacted] seemed to know where the couple were residing and would be. I believe that [redacted] was acquainted with the couple and knew where they would be on the evening of the incident. The man and woman were picked up as they were walking along the street near one of the packing houses in Winter Garden. I do not recall the name but it was on the south side of Winter Garden. I was working and living in Orlando at the time and drove my own car to the south side of Winter Garden where I was picked up by the car which was occupied by EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] possibly WILLARD SMITH and possibly [redacted] who was the instigator of this ride might not have been on the ride but might have sent another man in his place, the identity of whom I do not recall. It was [redacted] or EARL BROOKLYN who usually told me the reason for any ride in which we were engaged. Both the man and woman were put in the car in which we were riding and were taken over by Lake Apopka to the east side of the lake into an orange grove. Neither of the victims was blindfolded. After the reason for their treatment was explained to the victims the man was first placed on the ground, had his trousers pulled down and was beaten with the same leather strap severely on the buttocks. This strap was usually kept by EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] and produced for any beatings. The woman received a lighter beating than the man. Both were left to walk home from the scene of the beating.

"Shortly afterward I was involved in a third ride under the following circumstances. I do not recall who approached me to go on this 'job'. Only one car was used and I do not recall whether or not it was one owned by EARL BROOKLYN or by [redacted]

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7C  
b7D

"This ride involved a victim who was a man described as white, [redacted] having a slight build, who lived in Winter Garden on the same street where [redacted] resided across the street [redacted] on the west side of the street. The man was supposed to be drinking heavily and abusing his family. [redacted] definitely arranged the ride but I do not believe he went on the ride [redacted] I drove my own car from Orlando to Winter Garden where I parked it and was picked up by the ride car which was occupied by EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] and either [redacted] or WILLARD SMITH. I believe there were only four individuals participating in this ride. [redacted] and EARL BROOKLYN went up to this man's home and called him to the door and had a very difficult time getting him out of his house to the car. He was also taken to the general vicinity of the grove on the east side of Lake Apopka where he received a sound thrashing on the buttocks with the usual leather strap. I do not recall that he was blindfolded in any manner. The man was left at the scene to walk home.

"The fourth ride in which I participated as a Klansman occurred in the end of 1943 or possibly in 1944. It involved a negro man victim who worked at the ice plant in Winter Garden who was about [redacted] tall, having a slight build who wore a leather cap. The instigator or finger man in this ride was [redacted] who explained that the negro had cursed a white man or had an altercation of some sort with a white man. As I recall, I drove my own car to Winter Garden where I parked it and was picked up by a car owned and operated by CLARENCE LONGLEY who has a restaurant on Bumby and South in Orlando and who was a new member of the Klan participating in his first and only ride to my knowledge. With us in this one car which was the only one used was CARL GREENHALGH, a block mason, who was also a new member of the Klan on his first and only ride to my knowledge. There was another man on the ride but I can not recall whether it was [redacted] or some other individual whose identity is unknown to me. CARL GREENHALGH and CLARENCE LONGLEY who have been inactive in the Klan for the past four or five years went up to the ice plant and at about 8:30 or 9:00 P.M. brought the negro victim out of the plant and put him in the car. We drove out in the general direction of Ocoee near the truck farms which are south of the Old Winter Garden Road. This was before the new Winter Garden Road was constructed.

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7C  
b7D

"The negro was given a sound beating with the usual strap which was produced by either [redacted] or the man who took his place. This negro was left to walk home.

"The fifth ride in which I was engaged as a Klansman occurred possibly in 1945. The ride involved a victim whose last name I believe was [redacted] who was employed at a packing house located on the north side of the Old Ocoee-Winter Garden Road just east of Winter Garden. This man was described as white, [redacted] having a slight build and light brown hair and was married. [redacted] who was the finger man on this job advised that this man had been [redacted] in his automobile. I had driven in my car to Winter Garden after having been approached by J. B. JOHNSON and [redacted] to go on the ride. J. B. JOHNSON had just become active in the Klan prior to this incident or ride. I was picked up in a car which was the only one used by [redacted] who had borrowed the car from someone and was driving it. In the car were J. B. JOHNSON who seemed to assume leadership in the ride and produced the leather strap for the beating and JOE WEISNER, now deceased, who at one time was on the police force in Orlando and who at the time of the beating was a liquor salesman for King Whiskey. [redacted] was on the main street in Winter Garden and pointed out the victim who was walking along the street. I believe BILL BARDEN was close by around the corner. The man was taken into the car by J. B. JOHNSON and [redacted] We drove out toward Windemere at the edge of an orange grove where the man was laid on the ground, had his trousers pulled down and was given a good lashing with the leather strap which was applied by all of us in turn. The man was left to walk home."

The above was the last ride in which I was ever engaged. I had lost my stomach for such activities because these individuals were too rough for me. I had 'grown up'.

"No company cars were used on any of these rides. None of the victims received medical attention of any sort to my knowledge. I could not state definitely who drove the automobiles used in these rides, can not definitely state who owned the automobiles involved in some of the rides and can not be more specific in the



JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

"information about the rides. I do not have any knowledge of any other beatings or shootings which have occurred in Orange County. My only knowledge is what I have read in the newspapers and heard merely as rumor and gossip of many incidents.

"I have read this and the three preceeding typewritten pages of this statement and it is true.

"s/



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"Witnessed:

/s/ JAMES P SHANNON; Special Agent FBI, Miami 4/2/52  
/s/ FRANK F. MEECH Special Agent F.B.I. 4/2/52"

[redacted] was visibly affected during this interview and advised he would cooperate fully with this Bureau in furnishing information of interest to this Bureau.

He advised he has never been directly approached to participate in any other rides, has more or less avoided the individuals who were ordinarily participating in these rides and did not recall any particular occasion when any of the wrecking crew asked him to participate in any other rides.

Regarding other terrorist incidents he stated he had heard about some girls who had been bathing nude in a lake near Ocoee being taken out and beaten but he could not recall any of the facts. He did hear of an incident at Apopka where someone obtained the license number of WILLARD SMITH's car which was used on a ride. WILLARD SMITH, [redacted] and [redacted] were supposed to have participated in this ride.

He persisted in denying any knowledge of HARRY T. MOORE except what he read in the newspaper after MOORE's death, knowledge of information which might have any relation to MOORE's death or any knowledge of the floor plans of MOORE's house allegedly in existence.

He stated that by reason of the fact that he has been in the Southern Knights since early 1950 he would not be in a position to obtain

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

information concerning the activities of the various Klaverns of the Association of Georgia Klans.

He stated that it was the practice in the Klan for rides to be arranged by the chief of the Klavern Committee and incidents were not discussed with the Exalted Cyclops unless he himself participated in the ride.

The following is additional information concerning the background of the Klan since his membership and particularly concerning the organization of the various Klans, starting with the Old Ku Klux Klan, proceeding through the Florida Klan, the Association of Georgia Klans and the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The Old Ku Klux Klan was disbanded in 1944. At that time there was one Klan in the Orlando-Winter Garden area and one in the Apopka area. Late in 1944 the Orlando-Winter Garden group continued to operate as a Klan organization under a Florida State Klan charter and was known as the Fort Gatlin #1 Klan. Late in 1946 or early in 1947 a group of Orlando Klansmen formed a new Klavern of the Florida State Klan, calling it the Cherokee #7, being a separate Klavern from the Winter Garden group which either retained the Fort Gatlin #1 designation or assumed the name of the West Orange Klan. This Winter Garden Klan remained in the Florida Klan until the middle of 1947 when the entire Klavern was banished from the Florida Klan by [redacted] of Sanford who was the state leader of the Florida Klan. This particular Klavern consisted mainly of the individuals who were generally engaged in terrorist activities in the Orlando area.

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b7C

After Dr. SAMUEL GREEN of Atlanta revived the Klan under the Association of Georgia Klans the group of the Florida Klan obtained a Georgia Klans charter and called themselves the West Orange Klan. Among these individuals were EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted]

[redacted] J. B. JOHNSON and CURLY BELVIN. [redacted] were newcomers into the Klan organization and CURLY BELVIN had just come back into the Klan after being inactive for a number of years. It was this group which called the Orlando Klansmen who were no longer affiliated with them "a bunch of Boy Scouts". It was rumored in this area there were at least one or two "parties" a week in the Winter Garden area under the auspices of the wrecking crew of the West Orange Klan.

[redacted] was travelling for Castelberry Foods out of Augusta, Georgia, covering the entire state of Florida from the middle of 1947 to the middle of 1948.

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

In the nucleus of the young wrecking crew in addition to [redacted] and EARL BROOKLYN were JAMES B. JOHNSON, [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] was a young man who was all for action, although [redacted] does not know of any specific rides in which [redacted] was engaged. He did not know of any particular ride in which [redacted] was engaged but he assumed that both [redacted] and [redacted] were on them because of the way they spoke and the people with whom they were associated. He believed [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops in the Winter Garden-Orlando Klan in either 1947 or 1948, [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops either before or after [redacted]. He also believed [redacted] [redacted] was Exalted Cyclops about the time CURLY BELVIN returned to active participation in the Klan.

Late in 1949, some time after the Florida Klan ceased activities the Cherokee #7 which had been operating independently obtained an Association of Georgia Klans charter for Orlando. Some of the Klansmen from the West Orange Association of Georgia Klans Klavern left that Klavern and joined with the members of the Cherokee #7 to obtain the Georgia Klans charter in Orlando, among them being EARL BROOKLYN, CURLY BELVIN, [redacted] and [redacted].

Several months later, probably early in 1950, [redacted] and fifteen others, among whom were [redacted] and [redacted] of Winter Garden (now inactive), founded the first Klavern of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Orange County, receiving the designation of "7-1".

Members of the Cherokee #7 who stayed in the Georgia Klans in Orlando after [redacted] and the others formed the Southern Knights Klavern were EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] J. B. JOHNSON, [redacted] and TILLMAN BELVIN. It was after that time that friction arose over the use of the block house on Winter Garden Road on Sherwood Lake as a meeting place. Windows and locks were broken.

The Southern Knights Klavern at Orlando meets on Wednesday nights at a location which is out Cheney Highway east of Orlando. The membership is 100 to 150 but approximately 20 to 25 Klansmen attend meetings.

[redacted] denied that the Southern Knights Klavern of which he is a member and presently Exalted Cyclops was involved in any acts of violence and he as Exalted Cyclops does not suspect there are any Klansmen in his Klavern who are involved in any acts of violence.

b6  
b7C  
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JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

He advised that [ ] was the first Exalted Cyclops under the Southern Knights charter and [ ] was the second Exalted Cyclops. He himself took over as Exalted Cyclops in July, 1951. He further advised there was no Klavern of the Southern Knights in Sanford nor in Brevard County to his knowledge. He understood there was a Southern Knights Klavern in Miami but he knew nothing about it or any of its members.

He made the following remarks about individuals mentioned:

[ ] used to be active in the old Florida Klan but has not been an active Klansman in years. *KKK*

He knows [ ] a member of the Southern Knights Klavern in Apopka, which meets on Thursday nights, only casually, having met him a few times.

He knows [ ] the Grand-Dragon of the Georgia Klans who is a railroad union man at Wildwood, a decent sort of fellow who would not tolerate terrorist activities or rough stuff.

He denied knowing [ ] or [ ]

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

## II. INVESTIGATION RE WILLARD SMITH

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 19, 1952, at Fort Pierce, Florida.

BASIS: WILLARD SMITH interviewed inasmuch as he had allegedly been engaged in terrorist activities as a member of the Klan in Winter Garden-Orlando.

\*\*\*

WILLARD SMITH, 2913 Okeechobee Road, who is employed as a production man for the Fort Pierce Growers Association, furnished the following information.

After a preliminary discussion of instant investigation by the interviewing Agents, WILLARD SMITH made the observation that he might as well tell all inasmuch as it was apparent the information was in the possession of the Agents. He volunteered the following concerning three incidents or rides in which he had participated while a member of the Klan in the Orlando area.

Incident Number 1. Sometime, approximately June, 1947, when he was a member of the Winter Garden Klavern of the Klan he was approached after a regular Monday evening meeting of the Klan at the regular meeting place in the block house on Winter Garden Road by [redacted] and MOSE BRYANT, the latter being a member of the Klokann Committee of the Klan. He was asked by these individuals to participate in a ride and consented. He drove a car assigned to him by his employer, the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Association, taking with him [redacted] BILL BARDEN and he believes ROY GUDGER. MOSE BRYANT did not go on the ride. He had driven [redacted] to the meeting in the company car. Another car followed his car but he was unable to furnish any description of the car and could not recall who was driving it. The four individuals in the other car were not approached or picked after the meeting in his presence. He recalled that EARL J. BROOKLYN and [redacted] were in this second car. [redacted] and BILL BARDEN directed him to proceed to Fish Lake outside Ocoee, Florida, which is a small lake a short distance northeast of Stark Lake. BILL BARDEN

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MM 44-270

got out of the car and walked to the edge of the lake and called out to four individuals who were swimming in the lake and said for the two girls to come in, that they wanted to talk to them. In a short time all four, two men and two young women, all nude, came to the shore. The men avoided the group of riders and got away. The girls were caught by BILL BARDEN, [redacted] and two of the men from the second car and placed in the rear of the car SMITH was driving and instructed to sit on the floor between the seats. Their clothes were brought with them but not put on them. Again he led the ride under the direction of [redacted] to a place in Avalon Grove which is out Avalon Road south from Route 50 on a sandy road which leads west from Avalon Road into the Avalon Grove. This grove is located just north of the Bahama negro housing. At the location of the treatment the two young women were forced to lie nude on their stomachs in the sand and were whipped on the buttocks with green sprouts cut from an orange tree which were applied by all except SMITH who remained seated in the car and EARL BROOKLYN who was not allowed to beat the women because of his vicious nature and brutal instincts. The other members of the ride were afraid that BROOKLYN might do extreme injury to the young women if he were allowed to whip them. During the treatment EARL BROOKLYN stood near the place where the women were lying. After this beating the girls were left in the grove with their clothes and had to walk back to Ocoee.

It was his recollection there were no Apopka Klansmen present at this ride and that they were all from Orlando or Winter Garden.

He remarked that at the time of this ride [redacted] was working for [redacted] in Winter Garden.

It is his impression that during the time of this ride he was advised that a complaint had been received that these two young women who were allegedly teachers in the Ocoee High School had been bathing at Fish Lake regularly and that they were persons of such character that they should not be teaching children. It was his impression that the ride was well cased by reason of the smooth operation. It is his belief that the two women left town shortly after the whipping and that they were not originally from the Orlando area. He did not believe they were whipped too severely.

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MM 44-270

Incident Number 2: Several weeks after the first incident [ ] again approached him on a Monday night after a regular Klan meeting about 9:00 or 10:00 P.M. and asked him if he would go on a ride. He agreed and again drove a company car having [ ] BILL BARDEN and WALTER BALLARD as the persons riding in his car which led the way. ~~WALTER BALLARD~~ of Ocoee who was on the Klokann Committee at the time was the finger man on this ride. In the second car which he could not identify were ROY GUDGER and possibly [ ] He believed there were two or three others possibly from Orlando. He could not recall their identity and was unable to identify them from photographs of Klansmen which were available. On a subsequent interview on March 23, 1952, he advised he recalled that [ ] was involved in this incident and was riding in the second car. It was his understanding that the person to receive the treatment was a heavy woman named [ ] She was supposed to have been drinking heavily and going out with strange men, neglecting her children.

WALTER BALLARD directed the cars to a house in Ocoee which was located west of the tracks, which house from his description of it was determined by subsequent investigation to be owned and occupied by [ ] who denied any knowledge of the incident, stating he had lived in that particular house for some ten years. Someone, the identity not recalled, called this woman out of her house. She was dressed only in a thin negligee. She was ordered to get into his car. They drove out Route 50 and turned toward the Beulah Section and then south  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the new highway to a small grove which had a lake in the center. There she was ordered out of the car, ordered to lie on the sand on her stomach and was whipped on the buttocks with a switch cut from an oak tree. He could not recall who applied the switch but claimed he stayed in the car as the driver.

At the time she was returned to a point which was only a short distance from her home this woman had very little of the negligee left. It was his impression that the woman left Ocoee for a time and later returned.

Incident Number 3: Several months after the second incident he was witness to a third ride in which he did not actively participate. He had heard that a large stout man who was [ ] and whose last name was [ ] whose [ ] was the [ ] who was living in the same house with WILLARD SMITH, which was the big house south of [ ] Shell Station in Winter Garden, was to be given a ride. This

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MM 44-270

man was an habitual drunkard, beat his wife and neglected his family. It was about 9:30 P.M. that WILLARD SMITH was sitting on his porch when a man whom he recognized to be a Klansman from Apopka came to the house, walked to the porch over to the door of the [ ] apartment. This man whose name he does not recall is described as follows: white, in his middle [ ] [ ] pounds, dark brown or sandy hair, slight build. After viewing photographs he stated it was not [ ] but might have been [ ] [ ] However, WILLARD SMITH was not acquainted with [ ] personally. This man who was unknown engaged [ ] in a conversation at the door to the [ ] apartment. Then [ ] walked out with the man to a car which was parked near the house. [ ] was grabbed by several men and placed in the car which drove off in the direction of Apopka. Another car which was parked near the corner followed the first car. After they drove off WILLARD SMITH got into his own car and followed the first two cars from a distance to see what was going on.

The went out toward Apopka and turned east about half-way between Ocoee and Apopka and went off in the Clarcona section. As he arrived at the scene of the treatment he did not get out but rather parked his car a short distance away from where a group of about six men, identities unknown, were talking to [ ] telling him he was drinking too much, beating his wife, spending his money on himself and not providing for his family. After he drove up and parked near the group [ ] walked over to him and made some casual remark that had no relation to the ride. WILLARD SMITH claimed he drove off and went home before any treatment was administered to [ ]

He claimed he could not identify or recall any of the other individuals engaged in that ride. It was his impression it had been made up of Apopka Klansmen since he does not know many people in that area. He could not say whether or not EARL BROOKLYN was present. WILLARD SMITH stated he was home sleeping when [ ] came in from this ride well after midnight. It was his impression [ ] was not hurt badly. [ ] himself never mentioned the ride to WILLARD SMITH and did not report the incident to the authorities.



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MM 44-270

WILLARD SMITH advised that [ ] has approached him six or eight times to go on rides but except for the first two rides above described he has always declined to participate. His reason for not participating in other rides to which he was invited was that he realized he did not wish to be associated with people like EARL BROOKLYN who was an extremely brutal individual. He was always known as a strong-arm rough-rider, always in the forefront of any wrecking crews and boasted about the rough treatment he gave victims. He believed EARL BROOKLYN would be in about any incident involving terrorism in the Orlando area. He further characterized BROOKLYN as a "runhead roustabout who was overbig", who was noted as a "tall man" in the Klan, indicating he was held in awe by other Klansmen and actually enjoyed administering treatments to victims.

At a Klan meeting, and, in fact, until a person actually started out on a ride nothing would be said about the nature of the ride, the identity of the victim or the facts involved. Customarily many of the participants of the ride would not be acquainted with the identity of the victim or the reason for the ride except what might be divulged in addressing the victim. At no time was he ever hooded on a ride. The man who has caused the ride is the "finger man" and usually leads the way to the place where the victim is to be picked up. He understood that the red clay pit out Avalon Road had been used quite a bit on jobs or rides but he actually was never on a ride where it was used.

The Klokann Committee was supposed to investigate any grievances or complaints against the person and then speak to the appropriate law enforcement people about it. However, the law enforcement people are themselves to blame for not stopping these terrorist activities as they have told the Klan they don't want to be bothered with the bringing of victims up on charges, are not interested and that the Klan should take care of the matter and save them a lot of trouble.

EARL BROOKLYN whom SMITH first met in the middle of 1946, was in the Orlando-Winter Garden Klan and remained in the Orlando Klan when the split-up took place. Later he went over to the Winter Garden Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans.

When questioned about instant case and the killing of HARRY T. MOORE, WILLARD SMITH advised he never heard of MOORE or the case until he read in the newspapers of MOORE's death. He has not been in Orlando since

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MM 44-270

the Saturday and Sunday before Christmas which would have been December 22 and 23, 1951. When questioned as to whether MOORE had ever been discussed in the Klan meetings he stated he does not recall ever hearing MOORE mentioned by anyone in the Klan but admitted he heard the Pittsburgh Courier generally read from the Klan meeting floor.

The following is a signed statement which was obtained from WILLARD SMITH relating particularly to his membership in the Ku Klux Klan and the above three incidents. The original of this statement is retained in the Miami file of this case:

"Ft. Pierce, Florida  
March 19, 1952

"I, WILLARD SMITH do make the following signed statement to FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make this statement of my own free will and accord. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make such a statement. I have been advised that I do not have to make this statement and that I have a right to consult an attorney before making such a statement. I also know that any statement I make may be used in a court of law.

"I am 50 years of age having been born in Florida. I am married and at the present time I am residing at 2913 Okeechobee Road in Ft Pierce Florida and am employed at the Ft Pierce Growers Association.

"To the best of my recollection I first became a member of the Ku Klux Klan in about 1922. I remained a member for about one year and dropped my membership until about 1945. At this time I rejoined the Klan in Winter Garden, Florida. I was an active member in this Klavern until around the middle of 1948.

"During my membership in the Winter Garden Klavern which was chartered under both the Florida Klan and also the Association of Georgia Klans I was aware of terrorist activity originating within the Klan. On three occasions I participated or went on rides where persons were whipped.

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"The first ride in which I participated was in about June of 1947. I was approached in the Klavern, after the meeting by [redacted] and MOSE BRYANT and asked to go on a ride. I consented and drove the car I was using which belonged to the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Association. There were two cars on this ride. We picked up two female school teachers, whose names I cannot recall, and who were in swimming naked with two men in a lake near Ocoee. The girls were called out of the lake and put on the floor of my car. Also in this car were [redacted] BILL BARDEN and I believe ROY GUDGER. In the second car were EARL J. BROOKLYN [redacted] and two others whom I do not recall. We drove them to Avalon Groves off the Avalon Road where the girls were forced to lie on their stomachs and were whipped with some green sprouts cut from an orange tree. I sat at the wheel of the car I was driving and several of the men took turns in whipping the girls. I do recall that EARL BROOKLYN was standing near the girls but the men would not let him do any of the whipping. The girls were left in the grove with their clothes to walk back to Ocoee.

"The second ride I was on was several weeks after when [redacted] asked me to go on a ride after the Klan meeting. I drove the same company car and with me in the car were [redacted] BILL BARDEN and WALTER BALLARD who was on the Klokann committee at the time. WALTER BALLARD was the finger man having the knowledge as to where we were going. There was also a second car in which ROY GUDGER and I believe [redacted] were riding together with two or three from Orlando the names of whom I do not recall. We picked up [redacted] as I recall the name, from Ocoee. As I understand she was to be whipped because she was drinking heavily, going out with men and neglecting her children. We drove west of Winter Garden near Betulah section and south to a grove about 1½ miles from the new highway where she was whipped, with a switch cut from an oak tree, on the buttocks. At the time she was taken from the house she was dressed in a thin negligee and she was returned after the whipping to a point near her house.

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"Several months later I heard that a man whose name I believe is [ ] and who resided in the same building as I did in Winter Garden was to receive a treatment and taken on a ride because he was a habitual drunkard and beat his wife and neglected his family. I was sitting on the porch at about 9:30 P.M. when a man who I recognized to be from Apopka and who I thought to be a Klansman came onto the porch and called at the [ ] apartment and while engaging [ ] in a conversation walked out to one car and he was forcibly put into the car, by several men. This car met a second car at the corner and I followed in my car at a distance. They took [ ] toward Apopka in the Clarcona section. I followed the cars and turned around while several men were talking to [ ] [ ] came over to my car and made a few remarks not related to the whipping. I drove away before [ ] was beaten. I was asleep in bed when [ ] arrived home at about midnight.

"I did not go on any other rides although I was approached several times by both EARL J. BROOKLYN and [ ] to go on rides. I realize what I did was a violation of the law and regret that I ever participated in any of these activities. I stopped because I could see the nature of the activities these men wanted to engage in.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and six other pages to the best of my knowledge these statements are true and correct

" /s/ WILLARD SMITH

"Witnessed

/s/ FRANK F. MEECH Special Agent F.B.I. 3/19/52

/s/ JAMES P. SHANNON Special Agent FBI Miami 3/19/52"

SMITH stated he has no personal grudge against the men he has identified as being engaged in these incidents but he would not trust them if he were in a dark spot. (He was of the impression other Klansmen have been trying to "put the finger on" him and he took the attitude that since "the chips were down" he would tell the truth.) He was unable to select from photographs available any as being Klansmen in the Orlando identified as being on the three rides above described. It should be noted he had

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MM 44-270

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little opportunity to observe the individuals on the third ride except [redacted] He further stated he was not close enough to see whether or not a strap was to be used in the third incident. He mentioned that there was a regulation strap four inches wide and three feet long nailed to a round wooden handle which is kept in the Klavern in a cubbyhole near the desk of the Exalted Cyclops. This strap is usually produced from somewhere for a ride when needed but he did not know who had custody of the strap.

He has been informed that switch deals have been arranged whereby Klansmen from other Klaverns would handle a treatment for another Klavern and vice versa or would combine on a ride. He could not remember any particular case when Klansmen were called from another city or area to administer or participate in a treatment or ride. He has heard that men have been called from a considerable distance in order to do a job in Orlando.

He claimed he has always regretted the two rides in which he actively engaged and did not like the high-handed methods used by those radical Klansmen.

WILLARD SMITH first joined the old Ku Klux Klan sometime in 1922 in Savannah, Georgia, but ceased his association and affiliation with the Klan between 1923 and 1925. It was while he was working for the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Association in Winter Garden where most of his fellow employees were members of the Klan he was induced to rejoin the Klan by [redacted]

At that time there was a combination Orlando-Winter Garden Klavern of the old Florida Klan headed by [redacted] and [redacted] which used to meet in a wooden shack on Sherwood Lake on Route 50 which is the Winter Garden Road. Since he rejoined the Klan a block building was constructed to replace this wooden shack. [redacted] used to hang out years ago with a group of Klan radicals and terrorists which included EARL BROOKLYN, JAMES B. JOHNSON and [redacted] [redacted] might have been a behind-the-scenes man in directing such terrorist activities.

He believed there were two splits in the Winter Garden-Orlando group, one possibly in the summer of 1946 in which a separate or independent Klan organization was set up in Winter Garden at a time when [redacted] [redacted] tried to take over the Florida Klan from [redacted] The Century Club was the name used at Winter Garden and the Orlando group retained the name Cherokee Club. After a charter had been granted by Dr. SAMUEL GREEN of the Association of Georgia Klans possibly in December, 1947,

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

most of the Cherokee Club members reaffiliated with the Winter Garden group and formed one Klavern of the Winter Garden-Orlando Association of Georgia Klans which was called the Orlando Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans. He understood that thereafter there was another split which occurred after he left the Klan. It was about June, 1948 that he ceased attending Klan meetings and ceased paying his dues. [redacted]

[redacted] also stopped attending meetings at about the same time. He did not attend regularly, seldom more than once a month. He claimed he was disgusted because members of the Klavern were always arguing on the floor and he did not desire to be associated with persons of the caliber of EARL BROOKLYN and [redacted]

He claimed the constitution of the Klan is alright and that if the Klan operated according to its laws and constitution he would have no objection to it. However, he complained that the people who obtained control of the Klan were using it as a means of executing their own radical ideas.

When questioned about any visits he might have made to any Apopka Klavern meetings WILLARD SMITH stated he recalled visiting there twice, during 1947, during which time he recalled seeing [redacted] ROY GUDGER, [redacted] EARL BROOKLYN and [redacted]. One of the visits was on an initiation night when [redacted] and BROOKLYN were present.

When questioned about the [redacted] beating WILLARD SMITH insisted he had no prior knowledge that [redacted] was to be taken on a ride. He stated there was always a question in his mind as to whether the Klan was involved or whether [redacted] hired some thugs to render a treatment to [redacted]. He does know that [redacted] and ROY GUDGER have made trips to Tampa and he understands that for a few dollars arrangements can be made for someone in Tampa to administer a treatment.

He admitted that in his own mind he is satisfied that both [redacted] and GUDGER were responsible primarily for that incident but he has no direct or concrete evidence to support his opinion. He recalled that just before [redacted] left the SMITH residence on the evening of the beating he, SMITH, was upstairs in another part of the house from his wife. His wife claimed she could smell cigarette smoke and called to him to ask if he were smoking, which he denied. He called downstairs and asked [redacted] if he were smoking and

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MM 44-270

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received a negative answer. The next morning he noted a number of cigarette butts near an orange tree outside his house which indicated to him someone was prowling around the house casing for the ride. He believed the same group which took [ ] on that ride would have come for him if they had dared but he would not have submitted peaceably to such treatment.

WILLARD SMITH related that until the time of the [ ] beating he and [ ] were very good friends. At the time [ ] and his wife, [ ] were having marital difficulties and she was in the process of obtaining a divorce. He had offered [ ] a room in his house so that [ ] could stay at her own home. However, when [ ] refused he invited [ ] to stay with his family. He did not believe that [ ] was beaten with a strap because the welts on his body were in a round shape and the skin was broken in a number of places on his body, indicating some large heavy round object like a hose or weighted rope had been used. He felt very strongly about this beating and the day after it occurred he telephoned [ ]. After telling [ ] he did not want anything like that to happen again [ ] remonstrated with him, claiming he did not know anything about the incident, and did not know what SMITH was talking about. After SMITH referred to the incident that occurred the previous night [ ] voice was not very steady and seemed to indicate to Mr. SMITH that he knew what SMITH was talking about.

He did not believe [ ] had ever actively participated in a ride. It was his impression that [ ] was not trusted and would not have nerve enough to go on a terrorist ride.

He placed ROY GUDGER in the [ ] incident as an antagonist who had given [ ] and his wife, [ ] such a mass of misinformation that they broke up and he has tried to create friction between [ ] and PAULINE since they have been married.

[ ] always claimed to WILLARD SMITH that he had vast connections in the Klan. He knew [ ] has made trips to Miami, Fort Myers and possibly Atlanta on Klan business. He also knew that [ ] who was an Exalted Cyclops while SMITH was in the Klan, travelled with [ ] on these trips and that the "hall" of the Klan furnished so much money to them to make these trips. [ ] had claimed he was very close to [ ] who is presently Grand Dragon of the Association of Georgia Klans in Wildwood. At the time the new charter was obtained from Dr. SAMUEL

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MM 44-270

GREEN, [ ] made a special trip to Atlanta. [ ] has claimed he has Sheriff [ ] and Deputy Sheriff [ ] "in his hip pocket". At no time was [ ] ever an officer in the Klan, leading WILLARD SMITH to believe he went on those trips merely because he had a cab available for use by the Klan.

WILLARD SMITH related the incident wherein, in about September, 1948, Judge D. R. SMITH at Ocala heard the case in which WILLARD SMITH, [ ] and [ ] were charged with illegal hunting in the Ocala Forest. [ ] car had been used in the hunting and was subsequently traced to Sanford where it had been abandoned. SMITH had asked [ ] to plead guilty at Ocala and he, SMITH, and [ ] would pay all the expenses. However, [ ] wanted to make sure that SMITH and [ ] would also be found guilty and told of their implication. Through that [ ] and SMITH received fines, SMITH had his gun confiscated and [ ] who was represented by Attorney [ ] of Sanford received a 30 day sentence and a fine.

It was SMITH's impression that [ ] was still in the Klan at the time SMITH moved from the Orlando area.

The following information was developed from a discussion of various incidents which occurred in the Winter Garden area. WILLARD SMITH who left the Orlando area to work in February, 1950, advised that he had heard some gossip from visitors whose identities he could not recall about the WILLIE MCCOY who has been identified as WILLIE VINSON. Although he was not a member of the Klan at the time this occurred he had heard from rumor that EARL BROOKLYN is supposed to have been involved in that incident and that the barber [ ] might have information concerning it. He understood there was a shotgun involved in the shooting but did not know who owned the gun.

It was his understanding that [ ] who was called [ ] the shoeshine boy at [ ] had an argument with [ ] and was subsequently taken out for a beating. He has heard that [ ] knew all about that incident.

WILLARD SMITH related that a number of years ago while [ ] was the Exalted Cyclops of the Klan in Winter Garden and before [ ] was mayor of that town, he and [ ] had been engaged in an incident at the request of [ ] of Oakland. It appeared there



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MM 44-270

was a girl guest or relative of [redacted] who had been staying with her at her home in Oakland, involved in an affair with a negro. [redacted] who was a very wealthy person is alleged to have given [redacted] a \$2500.00 check for him to "relieve the situation". It is rumored that the situation was relieved by some strong-arm method, the negro disappeared and has not been seen since that time.

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WILLARD SMITH further related that a young white man who had been a box maker for the South Lake Packing House and lived in Winter Garden had been picked up by a group of Klansmen off the street near the Kappelman Cash and Carry Grocery in Winter Garden for a treatment. This man was dropped on the lawn in front of the Orange Memorial Hospital in Orlando in an unconscious condition and was on the danger list for three or four days. He was alleged to have been having an affair with another man's wife who worked at Heller's Packing House.

After discussing a number of the principal radical Klansmen in the Winter Garden area [redacted]

[redacted] He stated there were a lot of big men in Winter Garden who were in a position to call in strong arm men like [redacted] who were the little boys in the Klan and ask them to do something about a certain individual who needed a treatment. [redacted]

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in the Klan in the Winter Garden area: [redacted] of the Winter Garden First National Bank; [redacted] of the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Association; [redacted] prominent citrus grower and GEORGE MERCHANT who is now deceased, who made his money in the clothing business in Winter Garden.

WILLARD SMITH did not believe there was a man in Winter Garden who had enough nerve to talk to the FBI about terrorist activities.

The following is miscellaneous information furnished by WILLARD SMITH concerning Klansmen mentioned.

BILL BARDEN has lost his wife since the incidents in which he was involved and formerly operated a restaurant in Winter Garden and used to drive a truck in the citrus business. At one time he worked for [redacted] Gulf Oil outfit.

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MM 44-270

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ROBERT ~~MELTON~~ was formerly a member of the Klan and used to be on the wrecking crew but at no time was he out on a job with SMITH. MELTON has been invalided in recent years by a heart condition. At one time he worked for the 9th Street Package Store in Winter Garden.

CURLY BELVIN was not active in the Klan during the years WILLARD SMITH was active in the Klan but according to rumors used to be engaged in rough stuff years ago. *K.K.K.*

F. E. ~~LOOMIS~~ was the type of individual who wanted to be a big shot in the Klan, was quite an orator on the floor but did not have nerve enough to be involved in any of the rough stuff.

[redacted] was on every ride that occurred years ago from the way he talked but has not been involved in recent years. He should be in a position to know everything that occurs in Orange County.

[redacted] joined the Klan after WILLARD SMITH left.

JAMES B. JOHNSON was supposed to have been a rough person who was with the BROOKLYN brothers on numerous deals. He was in a position to have what is called a switch car to be used on rides. However, WILLARD SMITH did not know of any specific incident in which JOHNSON was actually involved.

[redacted] was Exalted Cyclops at the time WILLARD SMITH was secretary of the Klan. He believed [redacted] was also the [redacted] in 1946 or 1947.

[redacted] joined the Klan after WILLARD SMITH left. He understood [redacted] has engaged in the rough stuff and was right in the "hip pocket" of [redacted]

He understood that [redacted] was a member of the wrecking crew but never knew of his being out on any specific ride.

He heard that [redacted] had been out on rides years ago but was never on any with him.

He knew [redacted] vaguely but has heard a lot about his being associated with the BROOKLYN boys.

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MM 44-270

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[redacted] was Exalted Cyclops while SMITH was in the Klan.

The following persons were described by WILLARD SMITH as card carrying Klansmen who were not engaged in any terrorist activities:

[redacted]  
[redacted] ADIS JERNIGAN.  
[redacted]  
[redacted] of Ocoee  
[redacted] who was at one time on the Klokarn committee.

[redacted]  
He never heard of [redacted] going out on rides, probably because he [redacted] He has never known that [redacted] was ever in the Klan.

He has seen the Grand Dragon [redacted] has been in his home at Wildwood, has heard him make speeches and has always been favorably impressed by him as a man who was not radical in any way in his tendencies and not inclined to any strong arm methods.

The following Klansmen were mentioned to WILLARD SMITH but he stated he did not know them:

[redacted] JOE WADE  
LLOYD HATCH

He stated he was unable to identify [redacted] as a member of the Klan and has never seen [redacted] at a Klan meeting.

It should be noted that WILLARD SMITH visited his son [redacted] [redacted] at Winter Garden over the week-end of March 23, 1952, which was the first time he was in Winter Garden since MOORE's death. He met [redacted] and spoke to him for a short time. According to [redacted] [redacted] the two terrorist incidents about which the Winter Garden Klan is particularly concerned are the [redacted] beating and the beating of LUTHER COLEMAN who was taken from the bank. The Klan was of the impression

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MM 44-270

that the fact the bank was a "federal building" would possibly give the FBI jurisdiction in the incident. [redacted] did not discuss the Mims case at all. He almost insisted to WILLARD SMITH that SMITH must have been interviewed by the FBI by this time and was very much surprised when it was denied by SMITH.

The following is a description of WILLARD SMITH as obtained from interrogation and observation:

Race	white
Sex	male
Birth date	October 16, 1901
Birthplace	Palatka, Florida
Height	5'6"
Weight	190
Hair	brown, greying
Eyes	blue; wears glasses when reading
Complexion	medium
Father	LOUIS CHARLES SMITH, deceased
Mother	JULIA SANDERS, deceased
Wife	[redacted] married September 27, 1948, Montgomery, Alabama
Adopted son	[redacted]
Former wife	[redacted] Daytona Beach, Florida
Sons	[redacted] Jacksonville, Florida; [redacted] Florida Telephone Company, Winter Garden, Florida
Brother	[redacted] employee Gulf Life Insurance Company, Waldo, Florida
Sister	[redacted] Graham, Florida
Half-sisters	[redacted] Daytona Beach, Florida; [redacted] Waldo, Florida; in SPAR or WAVES in Hawaii
Address	2913 Okeechobee Road, Fort Pierce, Florida

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Prior address	Winter Garden, Florida, prior to February, 1950
Employment	production man, Fort Pierce Growers Association, Fort Pierce, Florida
Prior employment	Winter Garden Citrus Growers Association, prior to February, 1949; [redacted] Gulf Oil, driver, July to November, 1949, Winter Garden and Ocoee, Florida

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Photographs of WILLARD SMITH in various poses were taken March 23, 1952.

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III. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT EARL J. BROOKLYN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [ ] on March 25, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

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BASIS: [ ] former employee of the Super Concrete Company, who was approached by EARL BROOKLYN to join the Klan, interviewed for any information in his possession regarding BROOKLYN's character and Klan activities.

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[ ] advised he had been a Klansman for one year and ceased affiliation with the organization about 2½ years ago. He stated his membership was in the Association of Georgia Klans.

[ ] advised that EARL BROOKLYN whom he referred to as "BROOKS" had approached him to join the Klan. At this time he and BROOKLYN were working together for the Super Concrete Company. He stated he did join the Klan and found that most of the fellows in the Klan were nice. During the meetings he attended the conversations were of club business and the collection of money to send flowers to sick people who were related to the members of the Klan. He said he never participated in any rides and, in fact, had never heard one mentioned or contemplated.

He denied ever seeing any house plans or hearing any mention of HARRY T. MOORE. He stated he himself first heard of the bombing that occurred in Mims over the radio. He did not know who the victims were. He just knew they were negroes.

[ ] stated that in his opinion EARL BROOKLYN was all mouth, one who tried to be the big shot and "dish it out" but that he could not "take it". He stated that BROOKLYN was ignorant and capable of anything with some help. [ ] did not know of BROOKLYN's participation in any rides or other terrorist activities.

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He was asked to name the officers of the Klavern to which he belonged and advised he could not remember their names. He insisted he was not relying on his oath as a Klansman but that his memory was very poor which he attributed to a head injury he suffered when 14 years of age.

[redacted] stated he did not know JAMES B. JOHNSON, TILMAN H. BELVIN. [redacted] He advised that [redacted] [redacted] was a member of the Klan at that time and he considered him a nice fellow. He did not recall any of the other persons who attended Klan meetings during his membership.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [ ] on March 29, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [ ] reportedly an associate of  
EARL BROOKLYN, SMITH MANNING and [ ] interviewed.

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While attempting to make telephonic contact with [ ] at 2-1950 for the purpose of making an appointment for interview, it was determined his present telephone number is 3-7483. At the time the appointment was made he advised he is presently residing at [ ] Orlando, and that he has recently moved to this address from [ ]

[ ] advised that he is not, nor has he ever been, a member of the Ku Klux Klan and that three years ago he was approached by one [ ] who worked in a furniture store in Orlando at that time and was asked to become a member of the Klan. He filled out his application for membership and a few weeks later [ ] returned the application to him, stating that he had been turned down. It was his opinion that his Klan membership was not accepted because he has served as a [ ] for [ ] [ ] stated that he was glad he had not become affiliated with the organization as he does not believe in any of their principles.

He advised he has known [ ] for two or three years, that he met [ ] while he was collecting garbage throughout the city of Orlando. [ ] operated an establishment from which he collected garbage. [ ] stated he understood that until recently one SMITH MANNING lived in an apartment near [ ] and that [ ] was renting this apartment to MANNING. He stated [ ] is a peculiar individual. [ ] talks a lot about plastering and on occasion he has heard him mention a private detective agency which he operated years ago. To [ ] knowledge [ ] never expressed any views or opinion about the violence suffered by the negroes in the Orlando area. He advised he has not seen [ ] in over a year.



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[ ] stated he has known SMITH MANNING since childhood and palled around with him until 1924. After 1924 he had not had much contact with him until five years ago and since that time he has spent quite a few evenings with MANNING. They often rode around together and had a few drinks together.

Of MANNING, [ ] stated that he appeared to be a nice fellow, very talkative and the topic of his conversation in recent months was the estate of his deceased sister.

He recalled one night about three months ago while he and MANNING were returning from Fort Pierce that he was speaking of his job which was the painting of the new negro school being erected in Orlando. At that time MANNING asked if he thought the building would stay there to which [ ] answered in the affirmative. To this MANNING said they would never hold a class in it, that it would be blown up. MANNING did not say who would blow it up or anything more about it.

[ ] recalled that sometime in the past a [ ] opened a small store on the corner of 20th and Lee Avenues in Orlando and it was rumored that she was going to handle negro trade. MANNING stated that the negroes would never come out there to trade. To [ ] knowledge no incidents have occurred in or around [ ] store and he has heard no further statements such as that made by MANNING. He stated that the last time he had seen SMITH MANNING was about six weeks ago. During his association with MANNING [ ] never heard any reference to any activities of the Klan nor had he heard him mention anything about the bombing at Mims.

He stated he did not know EARL BROOKLYN by name. He was furnished a photograph at which time he stated he had seen him before around Orlando but knew nothing about him.

He did not know [ ] TILLMAN H. BELVIN or J. B. JOHNSON.

Of [ ] he stated he had through street talk and talk in bars heard that [ ] was the head of the Klan in Winter Garden. He advised he does not know [ ] personally.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on April 1, 1952, at Ocoee, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted]

[redacted] of suspect EARL BROOKLYN, interviewed for information regarding BROOKLYN's Klan activities.

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[redacted] stated they have had no contact whatsoever with the BROOKLYN family for over 1½ years and they do not have any knowledge of BROOKLYN's Klan membership. Both stated they consider EARL BROOKLYN a "peculiar fellow", explaining that he was the type who might be very friendly one day and snub a person the next day under identical circumstances. [redacted] stated she has has very little contact with [redacted] since the latter's marriage to <sup>Earl</sup>EARL BROOKLYN. She and her husband did not care fore EARL BROOKLYN and have therefore more or less severed connections with the BROOKLYN family.

[redacted] stated [redacted] EARL BROOKLYN, had lived with them from approximately November, 1951 to the early part of January, 1952. Prior to that time he had resided in Tifton, Georgia, for a period of five or more years. She stated he had come back to Ocoee and lived with them while trying to find work. She recalled that shortly after the first of the year she had returned home and found a note from him in which he stated he was leaving, that he might go back to Tifton or go to Jacksonville. He advised he would let her know by letter when he settled down somewhere. She stated she has not heard from him since then and does not know of his present whereabouts.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted]  
[redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on April 1, 1952, at Ocoee, Florida.

~~NEE~~ BROOKLYN

BASIS: [redacted]  
suspect EARL BROOKLYN, interviewed for any information she may have regarding his Klan activities and possible implication in instant bombing.

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[redacted] (not [redacted] as previously reported), stated she had had very little contact with [redacted] EARL J. BROOKLYN, and that she has not seen him for any purpose whatsoever for over a year. She explained that while there was no ill feeling between them her contact with him was limited because at the time [redacted] became an invalid EARL and the other children left her at home to take care of [redacted]. She stated this extended over a period of some nine years and [redacted] died about seven years ago. Since that time her contact has been extremely limited with EARL and the other children as she felt that if they did not want to help her during the period of [redacted] illness they did not need her help at the present time.

[redacted] stated she did not know [redacted] EARL was a member of the Klan. She also stated she had no knowledge of any connection he might have had with instant bombing.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent PRUE C. CLINKSCALES on March 24, 1952, at Lakeland, Florida.

~~NEE~~ BASIS: [redacted] suspect EARL BROOKLYN, interviewed regarding his Klan activities and possible implication in instant matter.

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[redacted] advised that she was reared in Ocoee, Florida, and vicinity but has not lived there for over twenty years. She visits relatives there periodically but has not seen [redacted] EARL BROOKLYN, since Easter Sunday, 1950. EARL has not visited the [redacted] residence in several years and she has not been in close contact with him or other relatives in Orange County in recent years. She did not see him or any members of his family during the Christmas holidays of 1951 and has no idea of his activities or whereabouts during that time.

She advised that she does not know for a fact but has understood that [redacted] EARL [redacted] BROOKLYN, have been active members of the Ku Klux Klan for many years. [redacted] has never gotten along with him because of personal differences, part of which [redacted] blamed on EARL's activities in the Klan. She stated that because of their differences [redacted] left home some two years ago, worked in Orlando and subsequently came to Lakeland where she lived with [redacted] and worked in a shoe store. During that time she told [redacted] that EARL had been active in Klan affairs; that she did not approve of such activities on the part of [redacted] and that instead of becoming better matters had become worse as [redacted] had become a member of the Klan auxiliary. [redacted] advised that even though [redacted] had returned home to nurse [redacted] during a sickness in the latter part of 1951, [redacted] was in no way sympathetic toward the Klan activities of [redacted]. She stated she understood that since his operation three years ago EARL has not been so active in Klan affairs.

[redacted] stated that to her knowledge [redacted] had been an active member of the Klan; that on one occasion her [redacted] whose name she declined to mention, told her that in discussing

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his Klan activities [ ] had stated he could not go to the door of a person whom the Klan visited because of [ ] but that after the Klan took the individual to the woods he could do as much as anyone else.

[ ] mentioned that a woman in Lakeland was having trouble with her husband and had asked [ ] to go with this woman to see EARL BROOKLYN to solicit aid from the Klan to "straighten out" the husband. [ ] told her daughter not to go with this woman; that her daughter did not go to Winter Garden to see EARL but did furnish his address to the woman. She later learned that the woman did go to see EARL for help but EARL refused her help, stating that he did not engage in such activities any longer because of his operation. To her knowledge the woman did not receive assistance from the Klan and to her knowledge the Klan from Winter Garden has not been to Lakeland on a job.

She is aware of several incidents involving beatings in Orange County but has no information regarding the persons responsible for these incidents. She pointed out that in her opinion [ ] is just as guilty of participating in Klan activities in Orange County as is EARL. She reiterated she is not in sympathy with such activities or the persons involved in them. She emphasized that she knows nothing further regarding the Klan activities of EARL [ ] BROOKLYN or of their participation in any incidents in Orange County.

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#### IV. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on March 24 and April 1, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: TILLMAN HOLLEY ~~BELVIN~~, suspect, reinterviewed for additional information regarding instant case in view of the fact he was allegedly visiting the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans at the time the floor plans of MOORE's home were exhibited by suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN.

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TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN was reinterviewed at his new home on Lake Barton on the outskirts of Orlando. He insisted that he knew nothing about the bombing of MOORE's home and has no information that might have any bearing on the murder of MOORE and his wife. He claimed he would never harm a negro except for cause and that if any negro did something which he believed warranted his attention he would take care of him directly without being secretive about it and after taking care of him would report it to the sheriff.

When questioned about any visits he might have made to the Apopka Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans BELVIN admitted he visited the regular meetings of that Klavern about a dozen times. The last time was when he himself was Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans in Orlando and BILL BOGAR was Exalted Cyclops in Apopka. It should be noted that BELVIN claimed he was Exalted Cyclops of this Klavern only about four months after which he resigned. Sometime prior to his resignation the visiting at the Apopka Klavern ceased by reason of the objection to those visits by the Exalted Cyclops, BILL BOGAR. He described BILL BOGAR whom he had known a long time as a veteran of the first World War whose mind was possibly affected by his war experiences. BOGAR was made Kleagle, or organizer, of the Association of Georgia Klans in the Orlando area a short time after he was elected Exalted Cyclops of his Klavern. He objected to the visits made by Klansmen from other Klaverns for a reason which is not known to BELVIN.

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Generally, BELVIN claimed he does not like the way BOGAR talked but refused to expound on this statement. He did not know what was wrong with BOGAR but believed it was just his peculiar personality.

He believed it was possible that some of the disagreement between BOGAR and Klansmen from other Klaverns might have developed out of the internal dissension which existed in the Apopka Klavern itself when BOGAR preferred charges against R. G. STEVENS (deceased), [redacted] and [redacted] who were themselves conspiring to have BILL BOGAR removed as Exalted Cyclops.

BELVIN claimed he used to attend the Apopka meeting solely in order to build that Klavern, increase its membership and to make a good showing. He insisted that after the meeting ended he was in the habit of leaving the meeting place and going home while others used to hang around and talk in groups. After BILL BOGAR had restricted the Apopka meetings to members of that Klavern he, BELVIN, instructed the members of his own Klavern to stay away from Apopka as long as BOGAR was in charge there and let him have "enough rope to hang himself". He believed BILL BOGAR had not been the Exalted Cyclops of the Apopka Klavern more than two months when the visiting was stopped.

He admitted he had visited the Apopka Klavern at times when EARL J. BROOKLYN, [redacted] also visited that Klavern. However, he did not recall whether or not these other individuals visited the Apopka Klavern as a group. He himself always drove his own car to the meeting whenever he visited there and never went there in the company of EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] or [redacted]. He might at times pick up some one to furnish him a ride to the meeting but never as a regular procedure and he could not furnish the name of any particular individual whom he would drive to the Apopka meeting.

He claimed that EARL BROOKLYN had his own group who travelled with him and that he, BELVIN, was not one of that group. As he had insisted on previous interviews, EARL BROOKLYN was definitely not the type of individual with whom he cared to associate.

TILLMAN BELVIN further insisted that at no time did BROOKLYN or anyone else show him the floor plans of the MOORE home nor was he ever shown any paper which purported to be the floor plan of any house while at a meeting or after a meeting of the Apopka Klavern or elsewhere. He has

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never heard of the existence of the floor plans of HARRY T. MOORE's house. EARL BROOKLYN never spoke to him about MOORE, MOORE's house or instant case. He was of the belief that EARL BROOKLYN did attend the Apopka Association of Georgia Klans meetings early in 1950. It was BROOKLYN's practice to make a speech on the floor of the Apopka Klavern indicating from his discussion of a certain individual that he should be taken care of with a treatment but BROOKLYN never said whether or not such a person should be given a treatment but rather insinuated such should be done.

When asked whether EARL BROOKLYN and BILL BOGAR were friendly, BELVIN related that at one time when BROOKLYN was employed driving a citrus truck BROOKLYN used to visit BOGAR at his gas station during his working hours. BELVIN claimed he talked to BOGAR and attempted to find out why BROOKLYN was visiting him. From external appearances BOGAR and BROOKLYN got along very well and seemed to discuss Klan business with each other.

BELVIN was unable to say whether [redacted] and EARL BROOKLYN were ever at an Apopka Klan meeting at the same time.

During the discussion about EARL BROOKLYN, BELVIN stated that although BROOKLYN was technically a member of the Orlando Association of Georgia Klans Klavern while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops, BROOKLYN did not attend any of the meetings. Rather, he became angry about something and ceased affiliation with the Orlando Klavern. Thereafter, when the Winter Garden Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans obtained its charter EARL BROOKLYN joined that Klavern.

He related a few incidents which revealed that BROOKLYN was the type of person who would never appreciate charity or good works done toward him, did not have any principles, frequently failed to pay his just debts and would become angry at a person for doing what would normally be a kind act toward him. In fact, EARL BROOKLYN has been angry at BELVIN for some time for some reason unknown to BELVIN.

When the question of terrorist activities, rides and treatments on the part of the Klan and its members was discussed with BELVIN he claimed it had been many years since he had engaged in a ride and he could not remember the circumstances or any of the particulars of any of those rides. He insisted he had never been engaged in any ride with EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] or [redacted] or, in fact, any of the current Klan members.



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BELVIN claimed that one of the reasons he rejoined the Klan was that some of the more respectable Klan members requested him to use his influence to curb the radical tendencies of some of the Klansmen. He explained that if it were not for the possibility that [redacted] [redacted] were in the position of being elected Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern in Orlando he would not have agreed to take that position.

He related an incident in which he had heard that a ride had been planned in Apopka and that some of the members of the Orlando Klavern of which he was then Exalted Cyclops were to be invited to go on the ride. BELVIN claimed that one of the Apopka Klansmen invited him to the ride by mistake. After the Apopka meeting a party of about fifteen started out in a number of cars, allegedly on this ride. BELVIN claimed the cars had proceeded only a short distance when he blew his police whistle which threw the Klansmen into a panic and "his boys", the visiting Klansmen from Orlando, jumped out of the cars, ran into the woods and the Apopka Klansmen drove off, abandoning the ride. He claimed he did not know the purpose of the ride, the identity of the victim, or the identity of any of the Klansmen who were to participate in the ride.

Regarding the rides which might have taken place while he was in the Orlando Klavern, BELVIN admitted some of the Klansmen undoubtedly engaged in these terrorist activities but he did not know the facts but only guessed they were being engaged in by reason of the "whispering campaign" that prevailed.

Despite the above incident, BELVIN claimed that to his knowledge the Apopka, Winter Garden and Orlando Klans did not reciprocate on rides. He further claimed the first indication he had that he had not been doing a good job as Exalted Cyclops in restraining the radicals was when F. E. LOOMIS, [redacted] and their associates had a meeting at LOOMIS' establishment to ask him to resign as Exalted Cyclops. He claimed he made some enemies because of his opposition to violence on the part of the Klan.

BELVIN further stated that most of the rough element such as [redacted] EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] and their associates transferred to the Winter Garden Klavern of the Association of Georgia Klans after BELVIN resigned as Exalted Cyclops. He further insisted he has had no contact with the Klan organization in the past two years, mainly by reason of his ill health and inability to attend Klan meetings.

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When questioned about the strap which is supposed to be used by the Klan and kept in a cabinet near the Exalted Cyclops' platform in the meeting place, as stated by WILLARD SMITH, BELVIN stated there was never any leather strap kept at the meeting place while he was in the Klan. He did mention there was a room in which he had never gone located under the meeting hall of the Orlando Klavern.

In regard to the possibility there might have been influential and important men behind the scenes in Winter Garden and West Orange County, BELVIN stated [redacted]

[redacted] of the Winter Garden drug store were in a position to put the finger on persons for rides and were members of the Klan.

BELVIN made observations about the following individuals.

MOSE BRYANT used to go in for the rough stuff years ago but is now sixty years of age and has settled down. He was an important member of the Klokam Committee for years and frequently made reports for that committee.

[redacted] might have been on rides, which is hearsay to BELVIN, was the Klud, or preacher, when BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops.

[redacted] was the Klabbee, or treasurer, while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops. He was a man who never involved himself in any radical or rough activity and was the type BELVIN would like to have as a neighbor.

[redacted] was commonly known around town as the "bell cow" because he could not keep his mouth shut. He was an excellent Kligriff, or secretary, while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops.

RAYMOND G. HOWELL many years ago, according to rumor, went out on rides but now prefers to take it easy and stay home.

[redacted] was in the Orlando Association of Georgia Klans Klavern when BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops. BELVIN has never known him to be engaged in any rides or terrorist activities.

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[ ] was never a regular attendant at the Orlando Klavern while BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops or in the Klavern mainly because he was a commercial fisherman who lived in the Sanford area and was too far from the meeting place. BELVIN saw him hardly more than six times at an Orlando meeting. He claimed [ ] was never involved in any rough stuff although he and EARL BROOKLYN were very close friends. [ ] and BROOKLYN no longer speak to each other, according to BELVIN.

LLOYD HATCH is known to BELVIN as a member of the Klan in Orlando for a number of years.

[ ] joined the Klan only recently after being elected City Commissioner. BELVIN thought [ ] was to be commended for not using his membership in the Klan to his political advantage.

JAMES B. JOHNSON is the biggest liar BELVIN has known. He is a "lot of wind" and has talked as though he was furnishing information to the FBI. Although BELVIN has never known JOHNSON to go on a ride, he believed that he has been and is still a member of the wrecking crew operating in the Klan.

WALTER BALLARD has not been seen more than twice since 1942 by BELVIN, prior to which time they used to bird hunt together. He claimed he knew nothing about any rides on which BALLARD might have gone but admitted he might have been engaged in such activities while in the Winter Garden Klan.

[ ] was supposed to have been on the wrecking crew in Winter Garden, according to rumor.

ADIS JERNIGAN used to be in the Orlando Klan but transferred to the Winter Garden Klan of the Association of Georgia Klans with R. G. HOWELL, [ ] and F. E. LOOMIS.

F. E. LOOMIS was an individual who never had the nerve to engage in terrorist activities but would plan something for others to do.

When the murder of a negro in Tampa by Klansmen years ago was mentioned BELVIN furnished the following information. [ ] was tried and acquitted. [ ] who was now a cripple in a wheel chair was tried and convicted. [ ] who was characterized in that instance

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by BELVIN as "just a sightseer" was not brought to trial because of insufficient evidence. He said the mayor of Tampa, the Chief of Police and Chief of Detectives and four or five City Commissioners from the city government of Tampa had made the trip to Orlando in order to solicit members of the Klan to kill the negro. BELVIN had decided to go on this ride but was prevented from going by the Chief of Police of Orlando who apparently knew what was going on and the plans for the ride. The Chief told him that if he did not stay in Orlando he would arrest him, put him in jail and make sure he did not leave town. BELVIN claimed that as a result of that incident he almost had a severe fight with FRED BASS (deceased) who was then the leader of the Orlando Klan.

During the interview questions were put to BELVIN to obtain information concerning specific Klansmen and specific incidents which were known to the interviewing Agents. At no time did BELVIN furnish any information concerning any of the incidents mentioned, claiming he either did not know anything about them or knew only what he had read in the papers. When questioned as to the identity of other individuals not mentioned by the Agents who might have been engaged in terrorist activities BELVIN stated most of the rough element had been mentioned but he could not remember the names of any other persons who might be added to that group. He claimed EARL BROOKLYN probably would not have been able to participate in any activities in the past few years because of illness. He suspected BROOKLYN had engaged in rides a number of years ago but did not know of any specific ride or incident. He claimed EARL BROOKLYN never admitted to him that he had been on a ride.

When questioned regarding the effects of instant investigation on the Klan, BELVIN advised he had recently talked to [redacted] the Exalted Cyclops of the Association of Georgia Klans Klavern in Orlando. [redacted] told him he did not think the FBI was going to have any success in certain parts of the county (Winter Garden and West Orange County). BELVIN also stated he was told it was the custom now at Klan meetings for each Klansman to repeat the Klan oath before each meeting in order to keep it fresh in the minds of the membership so that no information will be divulged to the FBI. The Klan was worried about that portion of the oath which obligated it to furnish information to duly constituted law enforcement officers. It was decided that an exception be made, that information be withheld from the FBI because the FBI through its investigation was telling the people in Winter Garden "how to run their niggers".

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BELVIN is presently dying of cancer. The interview was conducted in such a manner as not to aggravate his condition. Although he personally does not know the nature of his illness he believes he is in such physical condition that he might die at any time. After stating that he knew he might die at any time he said, "I want to get right with my Maker if I am involved in anything." He insisted he wished to cooperate completely with the Agents in furnishing any information that might be in his possession which might be of interest in this investigation. However, he continually pled faulty memory and frequently could not furnish the names of persons by reason of the faulty memory. It should be noted that in this and in previous interviews BELVIN's memory failed him in connection with some information and identity of individuals which he would have had no reason to withhold at the time. It is very possible his physical condition has had an effect on his memory.

*NRS* The following is a signed statement of [redacted] suspect ~~TILLMAN HOLLY~~ BELVIN, which was obtained April 1, 1952, after a complete discussion of her activities and the activities of her family on Christmas Day, 1951. The original of this statement is retained in the files of the Miami Office.

"Orlando, Florida  
April 1, 1952

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"I, [redacted] do make the following voluntary statement to FRANK F MEECH and JAMES P SHANNON who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize that I do not have to make this statement and that it can be used in a court of law.

"On Tuesday, December 25, 1951, Christmas Day, we were living on [redacted] 16 miles from Orlando Fla. [redacted] had arrived for a holiday visit on December 23 and 22 respectively. We arose between 8:30 AM and 10 AM. [redacted] when had come down from Oil City Penna on December 24, 1951 and her husband [redacted] visited us at 11:30 AM. My entire family, including [redacted] TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN, had dinner about one o'clock. I don't recall whether or not the boys, [redacted] were horseback riding that afternoon but I do know the entire family remained on our property.

[redacted]

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"The only visitor I can recall was [redacted] who rode his horse over to find out if the boys were interested in riding the next day. I believe he came over when it was getting dark and stayed around talking to the boys about thirty or forty minutes. We had Christmas dinner at 1 PM and supper at 7 PM.

"At about 8 PM we all drove into Orlando and stopped at [redacted] apartment. We drove in [redacted] Oldsmobile and our Hudson auto. After about 15 or 20 minutes we all got into the Hudson, leaving [redacted] Oldsmobile parked there, and left [redacted] apartment. We drove out into the College Park District of Orlando and admired the Christmas decorations; then we drove over to Fairchilds Funeral Home on Lake Ivanhoe and admired that display. It was about 10 PM that we stopped at the Gold Medal ice cream bar for sodas. We weren't over 15 minutes at that ice cream bar. Then we drove slowly downtown along Orange Ave and over to [redacted] apartment house. We stopped and parked in front of [redacted] and talked for about 15 minutes. [redacted] went into their apartment at about 10:30 PM while the rest of us drove to our home arriving at about 11 PM. We were tired and retired shortly after having coffee.

"It was Monday December 24, 1951 that [redacted] was knocked off the horse as it brushed against a post, hurting [redacted] leg. I would say that [redacted] who always hunts on Sunday, visited us on Sunday, December 23, 1952. I know he didn't visit us on Christmas Day.

"There was no racing on Christmas day or evening 1951. There was racing on Friday December 28, 1951 which was the evening I attended the races with my family, except my husband who was too tired and went home.

"It is possible that the boys might have been practicing shooting down near the lake on Christmas day.

"It was on Monday December 24, 1951, the day that [redacted] was knocked off the horse, that [redacted] visited us.

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"I have read the above statement of three and one quarter pages and it is true.

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"/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/s/ JAMES P. SHANNON, Special Agent FBI Miami 4/1/52  
/s/ FRANK F. MEECH Special Agent F.B.I. 4/1/52"

The following is a signed statement of TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN taken April 1, 1952, at his home on Lake Barton, Orlando, after a complete discussion of his activities and the activities of his family on Christmas Day, 1951. The original of this statement is maintained in the files of the Miami Office.

"Orlando Fla  
April 1, 1952

"I, TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN, do make the following voluntary statement to FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P SHANNON, who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize that I do not have to make this statement and that it can be used in a court of law.

"On Tuesday December 25, 1951, Christmas Day while we were living on [redacted] outside Orlando Fla our sons [redacted] were visiting [redacted] and I. I probably arose at about 10 AM that morning. However I cannot be positive of that time or any other time or occurrence related in this statement due to my faulty memory caused by sickness.

"It was about 1 PM that we had dinner. [redacted] and [redacted] usually target practice or shoot turtles near the lake almost every day while they visited that Christmas holiday week.

"I believe the only visitor we had Christmas 1951 in addition to my family above was [redacted] who probably rode his horse over to visit with the boys for about a half an hour near dark. We all ate Christmas supper about 7 PM.

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"At about 8 PM we drove in my Hudson auto and [ ] Oldsmobile to [ ] apartment in Orlando when she changed her clothes. After about 15 minutes she came out and we all drove in my Hudson to look at the Christmas decorations in College Park district of Orlando. We also drove over to look at the Christmas decorations at Fairchilds Funeral Home on Lake Ivanhoe. It was about 10 PM that we stopped at the Gold Medal ice cream bar and had sodas.

"Then we drove slowly downtown along Orange Avenue and over to [ ] apartment. We talked in the car about 15 minutes when [ ] went into their apartment. [ ] and my [ ] and I drove back home from [ ] arriving at about 11 PM.

"I believe my wife made some coffee before we went to bed. I probably went to bed about 11:30 PM.

"/s/ T.H. ~~BELVIN~~

"Witnessed

/s/ FRANK F. MEECH Special Agent - F.B.I. 4-1-52

/s/ JAMES P. SHANNON Special Agent FBI Miami 4/1/52"

It should be noted that BELVIN claimed that his illness has affected his memory and that he honestly is unable to recall obvious incidents in his life. This faulty memory has been prevalent in all the interviews which have been conducted with him.

[ ] Records Clerk, Florida Sanitarium and Hospital, Orlando, advised that TILLMAN H. BELVIN has been a patient at that hospital on three occasions: January 29 to 31, 1933; April 14 to 19, 1946 and October 27 to November 4, 1951. On the occasion of the last hospitalization he was treated by Dr. L. M. SUPPER who diagnosed his case as a virus infection with toxemia caused by gastral instestinal poisons and possible swelling of the left upper quadrant.



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V. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT [REDACTED]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and FRANK F. MEECH on March 31, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS [REDACTED] interviewed concerning his knowledge of terrorist activities, the instant bombing and his knowledge of suspects BROOKLYN and BELVIN and others.

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[REDACTED] stated he became a member of the Ku Klux Klan in Winter Garden about 1940 and has been active in the Klan since to the present time. He stated that during this time he has tried to be a good member and a good citizen. He denied having held the office of Exalted Cyclops although he admitted he is acting Klud (chaplain) at the present time.

When asked who the present Exalted Cyclops is, [REDACTED] stated he would prefer not to answer that question because he might be revealing the name of an individual who would rather not be identified. At the same time he brought out the fact that as a Klansman he had taken an oath not to reveal the names of other members. It was pointed out to [REDACTED] that this same oath required him to offer full cooperation with law enforcement officers. To this he replied he would offer every cooperation possible but that he would still not answer any questions concerning other members of the Klan.

[REDACTED] stated that he had no knowledge of any terrorist activities other than that which he had gained through reading the newspapers. He flatly denied having had any part in rides wherein various individuals were beaten or shot. He denied having taken anyone, man or woman, white or colored, into the orange groves or elsewhere and beating them. He also denied knowledge of anyone who has done such a thing.

He was asked his knowledge of EARL BROOKLYN and TILLMAN BELVIN. He stated he knew both but refused to furnish any further information about the men, again relying on his Klan oath.

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[redacted]

Concerning instant bombing, [redacted] disclaimed all knowledge of the bombing, saying the only thing he knew of it was what he had read in the papers. He stated MOORE and the bombing had never been discussed in any Klan meetings. He stated that on Christmas Day he had had dinner with [redacted] who is employed at the Heller Brothers Packing House in Winter Garden, and that after dinner about 2:00 or 2:30 P.M. his uncle and brother-in-law, along with the children in the group, took a ride to Orlando where they bought the children ice cream. He stated they returned about 4:00 P.M. and stayed at his sister's house until about 6:00 P.M. After that he and his wife went home. [redacted] was vague in his recollection of his activities for the remainder of the evening. He stated he believed they remained at home until they went to bed, time unknown. He also stated that if they did go anywhere they might have gone to a drive-in theater. He was not sure of the evening's activities. He denied having taken any trips to Mims and denied having had anything to do with the bombing of MOORE's house.

[redacted] stated he had visited the Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan in Apopka on possibly two to four occasions. He stated he did not recall having seen EARL BROOKLYN there on any of those occasions. He also stated he was not acquainted with the presiding officer of the Apopka Klan on the occasions of his visits. He also stated that in each instance there was some sort of social function such as a fish fry going on and that this was the purpose of his visit.

In view of [redacted] obvious unwillingness to cooperate with interviewing Agents, the interview was terminated.

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VI. INVESTIGATION RE [REDACTED]

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and FRANK F. MEECH on March 31, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [REDACTED] interviewed concerning his knowledge of terrorist activities, instant case and background of BELVIN, BROOKLYN and other suspects.

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[REDACTED] stated he first became a member of the Klan at Winter Garden around 1940 or 1941. He believed at that time it was known as the combined Winter Garden-Orlando Klan. Later, when the Klan separated into two groups, one in Orlando and the other in Winter Garden, he remained active in the Winter Garden Klan until the latter part of 1948 or the early part of 1949. He quit the Klan at that time because his health was not good and because the pressure of his business was such that it required all his time.

He denied ever having held any office in the Klan except on a temporary basis. He explained that while he had never been elected to any office in the Klan he did on occasion fill in at a meeting for officers who were absent.

When questioned concerning the trips he made with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and another individual whose name is unknown, to see the present governor of Florida [REDACTED], just before [REDACTED] was elected to determine how [REDACTED] stood concerning the Klan, [REDACTED] stated he may have carried these individuals to Tallahassee in his cab. On further questioning he admitted he might have been appointed temporary spokesman for the group which appeared before [REDACTED]. He denied taking any other trips on behalf of the Klan at any time.

[REDACTED] categorically denied having any participation in any of the rides that the Klan may have backed in the past. He also denied having any knowledge of these rides other than conversation he had picked up on the streets from persons now unrecalled by him. He explained his

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position as being of the belief it would be useless even to attempt to correct any man in any way other than by talking to him. He stated any display of violence towards a man or woman who has been doing wrong only makes them worse.

In this connection he was asked about his activities in surveilling several persons in and around Winter Garden. He first stated he merely did this as a pasttime and that he was a "peculiar fellow". Later he changed this observation to state he only watched people who owed him money to find out their activities during the evening hours. He stated this activity on his part had nothing whatever to do with any Klan business. As an example, [ ] pointed to an occasion several years ago wherein two young teen-age girls were seen by him in a tavern drinking beer several nights in a row. He stated he believed they were doing wrong and that they should be corrected. He watched them for several nights and finally asked one of the girls to come out of the tavern with him into his car. He stated she did so and after they got into the car he lectured her for quite a period of time. According to [ ] the girl thereafter saw the error of her ways and led a clean life. She is now happily married and a respected citizen of Winter Garden.

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He also recalled that on several occasions while he was watching some men who owed him money he noted they spent their time in the taverns drinking after working hours. He said these same men had families at home to support and that they were spending all their money on beer and liquor instead of supporting their families and paying their just debts. Of these men [ ] stated he merely followed them around to learn of their activities and later talked to them with the result that they stopped their drinking habits, paid off their debts and took care of their families. He stated that at no time were any of the people beaten up or threatened with physical violence.

[ ] was asked about and furnished information about the following terrorist activities:

The LUTHER COLEMAN beating February 6, 1951, at Winter Garden:  
He stated he only knew what he had seen in the papers concerning this incident. All he knew was that a negro had been beaten in the vicinity of the bank in Winter Garden. He denied having any knowledge of any of the persons responsible for the beating. He also denied having any knowledge that the Klan was in any way in back of the beating.

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[ ] shooting and beating: [ ] stated he never heard about this incident and knew none of the details or the persons responsible.

MELVIN WOMACK killing: He stated he knew only what he had gathered from street conversation. He denied any personal inside knowledge and stated he had no knowledge the Klan was in any way responsible for this killing.

[ ] whipping about 1947: [ ] stated he barely knows [ ] although he did know her father was taken away and supposedly put in jail. He did not know the reason. He denied knowledge of the whipping of [ ]

Shooting of [ ] January 12, 1952, at Winter Garden: He stated all he knew of this incident was what he heard the next day in street talk.

[ ] Beating: He first stated the only thing he knew about this incident was that someone told him that [ ] had been either beaten or in an automobile wreck. He flatly denied that he had either planned the beating or taken part in it. He stated his only interest in [ ] was that [ ] had worked for him as a taxi driver at one time and later married [ ]

He was specifically asked if he had ever made any threatening statements to [ ] or both. After a long pause he stated "none other than that they go their way and I'll go mine". [ ] was asked if he had ever discussed the situation that existed between [ ] and himself. He stated he thought if a man were married and were carrying on with another woman these things should be discussed and thought about. He stated he could not recall having discussed the situation with any members of the Klan although on further questioning he did state he had mentioned the circumstances to [ ] Sheriff of Orange County, one Sunday in Church in Oakland. He stated that as nearly as he can recall he had merely told [ ] about the conditions that existed among the three of them and stated he would have nothing more to do with their life in the future; that he wanted no part of it. He also told [ ] during this conversation that a great deal of his property had been vandalized, that he had accepted all the debts of the business and that he had promised his wife a sum of money and an automobile. He stated he is still trying to pay off this debt.

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He also recalled having discussed the situation with Deputy Sheriff [redacted]. As he recalled the circumstances of his remarks to [redacted] they were to the effect he did not think it right that the above mentioned acts of vandalism and the self-incurred debts should happen to him. He could not recall any of the other individuals with whom he had discussed this situation.

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He emphatically denied having discussed the matter with any Klan members and in particular with any who might have taken his remarks to mean he desired [redacted] beaten or taken care of in any way. In this connection he stated he did not know who to discuss such a matter with in order to have anyone beaten. He stated he knew no one in the Klan or elsewhere who would do such a thing.

In closing [redacted] stated he does not know who beat [redacted] nor does he know why [redacted] was beaten.

[redacted] was questioned concerning his knowledge of the following individuals.

TILLMAN H. BELVIN: he stated he is just barely acquainted with BELVIN and does not believe he was ever at a meeting when BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops. He does not know anything about him personally.

EARL J. BROOKLYN: [redacted] stated he knew only that BROOKLYN liked to hunt and fish. He thought BROOKLYN was active in the Klan at the same time as he. In this connection [redacted] commented that he was acquainted with [redacted] and that he and [redacted] had gone to school together.

JAMES B. JOHNSON: [redacted] stated he is acquainted with JOHNSON only as a casual acquaintance. He stated he met JOHNSON through the latter's business when he went to JOHNSON's store several years ago to make a purchase. He stated he has never seen JOHNSON in any Klan meetings or functions and does not know whether JOHNSON is presently in the Klan. He stated he is not acquainted with any of JOHNSON's activities outside his business.

[redacted] He stated he has known [redacted] for many years and that he used to deliver newspapers to him but that he has never known him well enough to talk to him. He stated he does not know if [redacted] was ever Exalted Cyclops of the Winter Garden Klan but that he might have been. He also did not know if [redacted] would be the type to engage in terrorist activities.

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[redacted] He is not acquainted with him.

[redacted] He has known [redacted] fifteen to eighteen years but knows very little about him except that [redacted] is a barber and is at the present time running for the office of Constable in Winter Garden. He stated he thought [redacted] was a member of the Klan but was not sure.

WILLARD SMITH: Concerning SMITH, [redacted] stated he at one time tried to have a lot of faith in SMITH and recalled an incident when he and SMITH had a long talk in an orange grove about SMITH's marital troubles. He stated SMITH was supposed to be in love with another girl other than his wife and that he was deeply upset about the problem. [redacted] stated that on one occasion he even carried SMITH to Alabama to see his former wife in an attempt to assist him in straightening out his marital difficulties. He said that later he and SMITH had a falling-out and that he lost all faith in and respect for SMITH.

[redacted] He stated he is acquainted with [redacted] but knows very little about him other than that [redacted]. He stated [redacted] has always been nice to him. Concerning [redacted] [redacted] stated he was unable to recall whether or not [redacted] was ever Exalted Cyclops of the Klan at Winter Garden.

ROY GUDGER: [redacted] stated he has never been able to figure him out. GUDGER appears to be a nice fellow but extremely high tempered and flies off the handle at the slightest provocation. He stated GUDGER was acquainted with [redacted] personal problem with [redacted]. He also stated GUDGER spent a lot of time around his place of business and was the one who told him [redacted] had been taken out and beaten. [redacted] stated GUDGER also told him he thought [redacted] should live together as man and wife again; that [redacted] was the only man [redacted] ever loved. When questioned concerning GUDGER's interest in this matter [redacted] stated that GUDGER is in love with [redacted] but that [redacted] does not love him and that if GUDGER could not have [redacted] he wanted her to stay with [redacted]. He does not know if GUDGER put the finger on [redacted]. He added that while GUDGER might have done it he did not believe he did.

[redacted] At the mention of [redacted] name [redacted] became quite angered and recalled in minute detail his version of the previously reported incident wherein [redacted] WILLARD SMITH and [redacted] went hunting in the Ocala National Forest without proper licenses and which resulted in the subsequent arrest

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and conviction of [ ] [ ] vehemently claimed he had been framed and that [ ] was in fact responsible for the whole thing. He stated he may have invited [ ] to the Klan at one time but he does not recall specifically whether he did or not. He stated he did not know if [ ] could have been the finger man concerning MOORE but added that when he was drunk he would do anything, pointing out that at the time of the Ocala National Forest incident [ ] was drunk. [ ] claimed at that time he gave the officers his right name but that they were excited and probably misunderstood him or wrote the name down wrong.

BILL BARDEN. Of BARDEN, [ ] stated the only thing he knew about him was that he was in the restaurant business in Winter Garden and is a happy-go-lucky sort of fellow. He stated he has no other knowledge of [ ] or his activities.

[ ] He stated he is not well acquainted with [ ] and knows very little about him. He stated he seemed to recall that [ ] used to do a great deal of drinking at one time but since seems to be a nice fellow.

[ ] He stated he was not acquainted with him.

[ ] [ ] stated he is only slightly acquainted with [ ] and knows very little about him. He stated he knew him only as an individual and not as in the Klan.

[ ] He stated he knows very little about [ ] other than that he is in the fishing business. He did not know of any Klan activities on the part of [ ]

[ ] was asked about the owner or driver of the LaSalle automobile that was frequently seen at his place of business. He stated he does not recall anyone visiting his place of business who drove a LaSalle and that he could not think of any persons who even owned a LaSalle within the past two or three years.

He was also asked concerning the identity of the individual around his place of business who drove a 1942 Mercury and trailer and was supposedly linked with [ ] in illicit whiskey traffic. He denied knowing anyone who answered this description and specifically stated he knew of no combination



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such as the 1942 Mercury and trailer. He also denied having anything to do with any illicit whiskey traffic and specifically denied ever having delivered or having had delivered whiskey in any of his cabs to the colored quarters or elsewhere on Sundays. He did state that on several occasions individuals would leave a bottle of whiskey or partially filled bottle of whiskey in one of his cabs on Saturday night and he would deliver it to them the following day but he again denied having any illegal traffic in whiskey.

On further questioning he admitted that any time a man wanted a drink he could get it for him and admitted keeping a stock of liquor at his home for this purpose. He intimated he had been carrying on this traffic in order to pay off the debt he owes. After making this admission [redacted] said, "But I'm going to stop that right now. It's no good."

Concerning the bombing of MOORE's home on December 25, 1951, [redacted] stated his only knowledge of this incident was what he had read in the papers. He stated he had never heard of HARRY MOORE before the bombing and that MOORE had never been discussed in any way in any Klan meetings. He denied having had anything to do with the bombing and further denied having had any knowledge that the bombing was to take place.

Regarding his activities on Christmas Day, [redacted] stated he worked all day and night until about midnight or 1:00 AM. He stated he took no long trips in his cabs and, specifically, took no trip to Mims.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [ ] on March 25, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [ ] aka [ ] interviewed  
inasmuch as he allegedly had business dealings  
with [ ]

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[ ] advised he is called [ ]  
by his fellow employees as he originally came from the [ ]

He stated he knew [ ] who operates a taxi stand in  
Winter Garden but does not know him personally. He has never spoken to  
[ ] or any of [ ] employees.

He has never had any occasion to do business with [ ] in  
any manner and has no knowledge of any illegal sales of whiskey or nar-  
cotics made by [ ] and has never heard any rumors regarding such  
activities.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRANK F. MEECH on March 31, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed concerning [redacted]  
[redacted] who reportedly has failed to pay [redacted] his  
back salary.

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[redacted] aka [redacted] Florida,  
advised he is employed by the Winter Garden Citrus Growers Association in  
the packing house.

He stated he drove a cab for [redacted] in the summer of 1950. He  
has known [redacted] all his life, having gone to school with him. He stated  
he had no knowledge that [redacted] was a member of the Klan although he recalled  
that at times while he was working for him [redacted] would have to make fast  
trips to Miami on one or two occasions [redacted] stated he had no knowledge  
of the purpose of these trips nor did he know any of the men who went with  
[redacted] He said the trips were made in a cab and that [redacted] had stated he  
had some business to attend to in Miami.

[redacted] stated [redacted] is a person who did not keep his word. He  
explained that he still has not received the money [redacted] owes him in the  
form of back salary. He stated that on one or two occasions [redacted] said  
that [redacted] would not get the money because if he wanted to get nasty about  
it [redacted] would see that [redacted] did not get it.

He stated that he has no knowledge that [redacted] was ever engaged  
in any illegal whiskey traffic or narcotics traffic. He was also unable to  
identify the driver of a LaSalle automobile which was reportedly frequently  
seen around [redacted] place of business. He was unable to identify the driver  
of a 1942 Mercury and trailer also reportedly frequently seen around [redacted]  
place of business.

He stated he has no knowledge of any terrorist activities except  
that which he has read about in the newspapers and stated he himself has

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never been a member of the Klan in Winter Garden or elsewhere. Concerning the terrorist activities he heard through general street talk that the various acts of violence were not the responsibility of the Klan.

Concerning EARL BROOKLYN he stated he is acquainted with BROOKLYN but he has no information concerning him. He and BROOKLYN went to school together in Ocoee.

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VII. MISCELLANEOUS

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [ ]  
[ ] on March 20, 25 and 26, 1952:

BASIS: [ ] in the Mims area, furnished information that in 1949 an individual had been in Mims, Florida in the early morning hours inquiring as to the whereabouts of HARRY MOORE and stating he was a Deputy Sheriff or Sheriff from Madison County and that HARRY MOORE had written a letter to the Governor and he was trying to find out something about him.

AT LIVE OAK, FLORIDA.

[ ] on Board of Directors, Progressive Voters League, advised that to his knowledge the victim HARRY T. MOORE had never been in the Madison, Florida, area in an effort to insure the registration of negro citizens of that area. He said he did not recall ever having heard of any trouble concerning registration of negroes in that area although he does remember that in 1948 a negro by the name of [ ] did register and upon advice of some white men withdrew his name from the registration list. He added that Madison County is one of the few counties in the state in which the negroes are not registered to vote.

He said he does not know of any trouble or agitation that has arisen from this situation and said that to the best of his knowledge [ ] withdrew his name, not because of any threats but upon friendly advice.

[ ] said two or three years ago two ministers, [ ] who presently resides on [ ] in Jacksonville, Florida and Reverend [ ] who can be contacted Care of the A.M.E. Church, Monticello, Florida, were in Madison, Florida and talked with the Registrar and the Judge of that county concerning the registration of negroes. The outcome of this conference as far as he knows was that the ministers were advised it would not be wise to attempt to register the negroes in that county at that time.

[ ] also stated that due largely to the interest of HARRY T. MOORE, a delegation was sent to Tallahassee, Florida in October or November, 1950 to confer with Governor WARREN. The outcome of this conference was discussed at the Convention of the N.A.A.C.P. which was held in Daytona Beach November 23 to 25, 1951. The Governor reportedly had promised the

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delegation that he would ask for the resignation of any Sheriff who was found mistreating prisoners and was indicted for any type of brutality. It had been the delegation's desire to obtain the suspension of a Sheriff who was in that situation and the proposal of the Governor was apparently a compromise on the delegation's point of view.

The delegation also proposed that some form of protection be offered to negroes from intimidation at the polls and it was [ ] opinion that a letter had gone out from the Governor to all Sheriffs and Registrars in the State advising them that proper protection should be afforded to negroes at the registration stations and at the polls. He said that the delegation secured their concession which he was unable to recall at that time.

He said it was his opinion that HARRY MOORE was apparently displeased to some extent with the failure of the local law enforcement officers to carry out such instructions.

AT MADISON, FLORIDA.

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[ ] who can be contacted care of the Tillman-James Undertaking Parlor, advised he registered in Madison County to vote in 1948 however, he withdrew his name from the registration list upon the advice of his employer. He said he was not threatened or intimidated but it was pointed out to him that possibly it would be better if he withdrew his name at that time. He said to his knowledge HARRY MOORE had never been in Madison attempting to encourage the negroes in that area to vote and there had never been any outward attempt to prevent negroes from registering in that county although they did not do so.

He said he only met HARRY MOORE on one occasion approximately two years ago when he stopped in Madison, Florida on his way to Tallahassee and discussed with [ ] the possibility of instituting a N.A.A.C.P. group in Madison. He said MOORE gave him considerable literature at that time about N.A.A.C.P. activities but he failed to secure enough members or support for the program in Madison and the idea was dropped. He said he never saw HARRY MOORE after that time.

He said he did recall a negro minister being in Madison two or three years ago and that he saw him at the Courthouse, however, he did not know his business there and did not know whether he was there to discuss

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the registration problem with county officials or not. He said Madison County is one of the few counties in which the negroes were not registered to vote. He was unable to furnish any additional information that would be of assistance to this investigation.

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Sheriff [ ] was contacted to ascertain if he could possibly furnish the identity of the individual who was in Mims, Florida in 1949 inquiring about HARRY MOORE. Sheriff [ ] readily admitted that he had been in Mims in 1950 and did make some inquiry as to whether or not HARRY MOORE lived there.

Sheriff [ ] explained that after the Groveland incident, in which one of the subjects in that case was killed by a posse in Madison County in July, 1949, he received a very scathing letter from HARRY MOORE criticizing him for the handling of that matter and indicating that the civil rights of the subject had been violated. Sheriff [ ] said he had destroyed this letter and was unable to recall the exact wording other than it was very critical and abusive of him in the enactment of his official duty. He said he at that time did not know HARRY MOORE.

Several months after receiving the letter he had occasion to go to West Palm Beach, Florida to return a prisoner from that city for appearance in Circuit Court in Madison County. Sheriff [ ] examined official records of his office and determined he had returned this subject from West Palm Beach, Florida on August 28, 1950. He said while en route to West Palm Beach he stopped in Mims, Florida for gasoline. He said he purchased gas there with his credit card and told the station operator that he was the Sheriff of Madison County. Realizing he was in Mims he asked the station attendant if he knew HARRY MOORE and if he resided in Mims and just who he was. He said that he learned that MOORE taught school in Mims at that time. He said he made no additional inquiry and drove on to West Palm Beach and returned the prisoner to Madison County. There was nothing further to this incident and he did not see or contact HARRY MOORE while he was in Mims, Florida. He could furnish no further information that would be of assistance in this investigation.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on March 21, 1952, at Sebring, Florida.

BASIS: LUTHER COLEMAN interviewed inasmuch as he was the victim of an attempted abduction and ride by the Klan.

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LUTHER COLEMAN who presently resides at 300 Lemon Street and is employed as a citrus worker for W. G. ROWE, Winter Haven, Florida, his foreman being [redacted] furnished the following information.

He came to Oakland, Florida, September 8, 1936, and for a time worked for [redacted] presently Justice of the Peace at Winter Garden, until about 1948 when he took a job as janitor at the elementary school in Winter Garden. He believed his work as janitor was satisfactory because he got periodic raises.

He received his beating on February 6, 1951, and left Winter Garden March 31, 1951.

He related that he started to work with [redacted] of the Lakeview High School in Winter Garden and doing janitor work at the First National Bank sometime prior to Christmas, 1950.

On February 6, 1951, at about 7:00 P.M., just before dark, he had swept the second floor of the bank and emptied the waste baskets into the trash cans outside the bank. He started sweeping the sidewalk at the side of the bank just in front of the side entrance of the bank. He noticed two cars drove up and parked across the street facing north on Boyd Street. As he looked across the street he noticed two very stout white men walking across the street in his direction as though to go into the barber shop nearby. First one of these men walked past him and after passing grabbed his left arm. Then the other grabbed his right arm as he passed. One struck him on the side of the head with something like a wooden club. The first man told him to get into the car and keep his mouth shut and to lie on the floor of the car. He was struck again with the club and began bleeding

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from his head. He was led across the street toward the waiting car without much resistance on his part as he was a little dazed. The rear door of the car was open and one of the men said for him to get in. He put one foot into the car. The man holding his left arm let go to open the front door. At that time he braced himself against the car, pushed back and wrenched his right arm free from the other man. He started to run south on Boyd Street toward the police booth, shouting for the Chief of Police, Mr. MANN. After he had run about six or eight steps and was on a line with the rear bumper of the second car which was parked immediately behind the first car, he heard one of the men say to shoot him. There was a shot and he tripped and fell to the street. He believed the shot came from a pistol and not a shotgun but admitted he did not see any firearms. He was of the belief someone had thrown a stick at his legs, causing him to fall; however, observation of the scar on his right leg indicates he was undoubtedly creased by a bullet causing him to fall. He had his trousers rolled up at the time.

After he had fallen to the street the two men and possibly more came over to him and struck him from the top of his head to his shoulders as they grabbed for his arms to pull him into the car. In a few moments he heard the cars leaving, going north on Boyd Street in the direction of Plant Street. During this time he was unable to see because of the swollen condition of his eyes and the blood in his eyes. He crawled over to the sidewalk near the barber shop and [redacted] office. He heard WILLIE WELCH, the night policeman, now deceased, approach him and the first thing WELCH said was for him to get off the sidewalk and not get blood on the sidewalk. A ten or twelve year old boy whose identity is unknown to COLEMAN told WELCH it was LUTHER to which WELCH said, "Is that LUTHER? Why, what happened to you?" LUTHER told him some men had grabbed him and started to beat him. He stated he wanted to get away from there. [redacted] came and COLEMAN asked him to get some water to bathe his eyes and face. As he was bathing his face a man wearing a white linen suit resembling [redacted] who has a real estate office in Winter Garden offered to take him to the hospital to see a doctor. COLEMAN stated he saw [redacted] standing nearby and brought this fact to the man's attention. He was then taken into [redacted] office where he received 16 stitches in various places on his head.

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MM 44-270

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Chief of Police MAYNARD MANN asked COLEMAN if there was any reason for the beating. He told the chief he did not know why he was beaten and had never had an argument with anyone. After he told the chief there was a shot fired, the chief asked WILLIE WELCH where he was and WELCH stated he had been watching the warehouse. WELCH denied hearing a shot. According to LUTHER COLEMAN, his fellow janitor, [redacted] never indicated he could recognize any of the men engaged in this beating. He said he was caught unexpectedly by the two white men and received the first blows from a club before he was able to pay any attention to them. He described the first man who approached him as a white man between 35 and 40 years of age, about 5'8", weighing over 200 pounds, very stout with a full face, wearing an old floppy light grey fedora hat, brown windbreaker type hunting jacket and yellow work trousers. The second man had the same general physical description and both appeared to be outdoor, grove men, weather-beaten in complexion. The second man carried a long stick or bat which looked like a night stick. He wore a blue denim jacket of the type worn by railroad and grove men and yellow work trousers and fedora hat.

As he was being led across the street to the waiting cars he recalled seeing two men standing on the sidewalk on the other side of the cars. He was only able to describe one of these men who was under 40, about 6', 160 pounds, thin build, wearing a blue denim overalls suit. After carefully examining the available photographs of Klansmen from the Orlando area LUTHER COLEMAN selected the full length photograph of [redacted] stating he was quite sure this individual was one of the two men standing on the sidewalk who was wearing the blue denim overalls but he did not believe the man looked as old as [redacted]. He selected the side view full length photograph of TILLMAN H. BELVIN as being of the general build of the first two men who accosted him. However, neither was identical with BELVIN and not dressed as he.

LUTHER COLEMAN was unable to furnish an adequate description of either of the two cars involved in this incident. He believed generally that the first car into which the men were trying to force him was a four door cream-colored car similar to a Chevrolet. The second car which was black was not very old. However, he could not furnish any other descriptive data regarding this car.

During the interview COLEMAN related that while he was working as a janitor for the elementary school in Winter Garden there had been a number of break-ins in the school. He decided to carry a pistol one day

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in January, 1951. [redacted] who uses his [redacted] [redacted] had a gun which was brought back from overseas after having been won in a dice game. He obtained this gun and took it with him to the school. The gun was a .38 caliber Colt blue steel Commander pistol with a 4½ or 5" barrel. After lighting the heater in one of the classrooms he laid the pistol on [redacted] desk and went elsewhere to light other heaters, forgetting the gun. Later he inquired about the gun but [redacted] [redacted] stated she had turned it over to [redacted] who in turn gave it to Chief of Police MAYNARD MANN. After learning from MANN that he might have difficulty regaining possession of the gun COLEMAN decided to forget it.

Concerning the allegation that he had been warned by some white men to stay out of Winter Garden, LUTHER COLEMAN related that on the occasion of his latest visit to Oakland and Winter Garden about January 12, 1952, he happened to be sleeping when two white men called to speak with him. They left without seeing him and he does not know why they wanted to talk to him.

[redacted] who lives in the house adjoining the home of [redacted] [redacted] LUTHER COLEMAN, told him these two white men had called to see him. COLEMAN told [redacted] he should have awakened him so he could speak to them as he had nothing to fear and could see no reason why he should not speak to them.

COLEMAN was questioned about MELVIN WOMACK who was killed near Winter Garden. He admitted he knew WOMACK whose girl friend, DORA MAE MOSBY, was the sister of [redacted] He knew DORA MAE was in Troy, New York, and might be with [redacted]

LUTHER COLEMAN is described as follows:

Race	negro
Birth date	September 6, 1905
Birthplace	Gainesville, Florida
Height	5'8"
Weight	145
Hair	black, slightly greying
Eyes	brown

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

Scars and marks

jagged 2" scar left rear portion  
of neck;  
2 gold crowns upper front teeth;  
1½" crease scar on bottom of calf  
of right leg

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents  
JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 26, 1952, at Sanford, Florida.

BASIS: [ ] interviewed inas-  
much as Confidential Informant T-1 reported he was  
a witness to the beating of LUTHER COLEMAN.

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[ ] age [ ] a native of Orlando, Florida,  
who has Navy Serial Number [ ] home address [ ] Winter  
Garden, Florida, was interviewed at the Naval Air Station, Sanford, where  
he is presently stationed.

He stated that in February, 1951, as he was walking west on the  
south side of Plant Street in Winter Garden toward Boyd Street just before  
dark he heard someone call for help. He ran in the direction of Boyd  
Street and as he passed the Davis Drug Store heard one shot fired. As he  
arrived at the corner of Plant and Boyd Streets he saw two cars driving  
north on Boyd Street across Plant Street and the railroad tracks in the  
direction of Lake Apopka. The second car contained four or five indiv-  
iduals and was a 1941 DeSoto convertible, faded blue-grey. After seeing  
the car he recalls the license had a 19 in the number. The first car was  
possibly a 1949 or 1950 green Mercury sedan. He could not recall how many  
people were in the first car. He believed he had seen the DeSoto around  
Winter Garden before that incident, possibly in the vicinity of the trailer  
park near Lake Apopka but never saw it after the evening of that incident.

After he ran around the corner to Boyd Street he saw a negro sit-  
ting on the curb in front of [ ] office. He appeared to be bleed-  
ing a little from a head wound. He noticed that WILLIE WELCH, now deceased,  
then night patrolman was running toward the negro on Boyd Street from the  
direction of the police booth. It seemed there was another white man stand-  
ing near the negro but he could not recall his name or description. He  
recalled that [ ] came out of his office. The only other person  
besides Chief of Police MAYNARD MANN he can recall seeing at the scene was  
[ ] who arrived after [ ] arrived.

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MM 44-270

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Approximately twenty minutes after seeing the two cars fleeing from the scene of the incident he recognized the same DeSoto convertible driving north on Boyd Street turn east in front of the police booth. [ ] drove in his own automobile south on Boyd Street in an endeavor to ascertain where the DeSoto was going. At the corner of Smith and Boyd he observed the DeSoto which had apparently circled the block pulling up at a house on the northwest corner of Smith and Boyd where it stopped to let out a man and boy. At this time he noted the license number contained the number 19. He did not linger at this point sufficiently long to observe where the DeSoto went nor where the persons who alighted went.

[ ] returned to the scene and attempted to divulge his information to night patrolman WELCH but WELCH would not listen to him.

It was also observed by [ ] about ten minutes later he picked up his [ ] at the Florida Telephone Company in Winter Garden where she was then employed. As they drove off he noticed a car started to follow him. He believed he was able to elude this car in a mile or more of evasive driving. He was unable to describe the car as it was dark at the time.

The available photographs of Klansmen were exhibited to [ ] who selected the photographs of [ ] as resembling the man driving the DeSoto Convertible. He said the man was about 28 to 30 years of age and seemed to have blondish kinky hair. The only time he actually had an opportunity to observe him was at the time the man dropped off the passenger at the corner of Boyd and Smith. He was unable to describe the man who was the discharged passenger. He recalled that one of the four or five men who were in the DeSoto at the time it was fleeing from the scene was a fairly large man who was seated sideways in the rear of the car.

[ ] advised he has not discussed the above incident with anyone except those who were at the scene. When questioned as to his knowledge of any other terrorist activities he related that two or three years ago a white man known as [ ] who was acting as [ ] in Winter Garden and was a [ ] was residing behind the [ ] family home. After [ ] made an approach to one of the [ ] boys that boy told his father. Several days later [ ] was taken out and given a very severe beating and left somewhere on an outlying road.

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MM 44-270

He believed that either [ ] or someone driving one of [ ] cabs had discovered [ ] and driven him back into town. He believed [ ] had to go to a hospital for treatment as a result of the beating. He is supposed to have left town after the beating and his whereabouts is unknown to [ ]

It is [ ] belief that two white men and a white woman picked [ ] up from in front of the Florida Telephone Company building in Winter Garden and took him out. [ ] believed [ ] might have been involved in the beating.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [REDACTED] on March 25, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [REDACTED] interviewed inasmuch as he was reported to have been an eyewitness to the beating of LUTHER COLEMAN.

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[REDACTED] stated that last winter, the exact date not recalled, they passed the Winter Garden bank about 8:30 PM and observed five to seven men attempting to put a negro man in an automobile. It appeared to them the negro was putting up a pretty good fight to get away from the men. They stated that [REDACTED] also of Winter Garden, were with them when they passed the scene. Shortly thereafter they heard what they thought to be a shot, at which time they immediately drove around the block to get a better look. As they arrived they saw two cars drive away slowly.

Neither [REDACTED] could recognize any of the negro's assailants and described the cars as follows. One was a 1947 or 1948 Chrysler convertible, light blue. The other was a 1948 Studebaker sedan, green. Neither noticed the license numbers of the cars.

[REDACTED] stated he saw [REDACTED] whose office is at the spot where the beating occurred come out of the building as the cars drove away and assist the negro into his office. Both advised they could not identify any of the men and stated they did not believe they would recognize either of the automobiles again.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [ ] on April 1, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [ ] who treated LUTHER COLEMAN immediately after his beating interviewed.

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[ ] advised that on the night of the beating of LUTHER COLEMAN he had been standing in the rear of his office preparing to go home when he heard someone cry out. He stated that at first he thought it was children playing on the sidewalk. When the shouting continued he went to the front part of the office and looked out. He noticed there were two automobiles parked in the street and on the far side of the street about four or five men. He advised it appeared to him they were fighting among themselves. One of the automobiles blocked his view and all he could see was the flaying arms. At this point he stepped out into the street to see what was going on. It appeared to him the men were striking something on the sidewalk with broomsticks or pool cues. As he stepped out of the door the men began entering the cars and driving off. He stated his attention was drawn to the victim lying on the sidewalk and it was at this time he noticed COLEMAN. Prior to that time he could not see who was being beaten. Immediately after the men drove off COLEMAN got to his feet and staggered across the street toward [ ]

[ ] stated he did not get a look at the men and the only thing he could definitely state was that they were white. Regarding the automobiles he recalled one appeared to be a light colored 1949 Mercury four-door sedan, either green or light tan. The other was a blue convertible with dark top. He could not state the make or model of this car. He did not notice the license numbers on the cars. The cars left in a hurry and all this time his attention was directed to COLEMAN. At this point he stepped to the street to meet COLEMAN and assisted him [ ]

[ ] He advised that [ ] was treating COLEMAN he questioned him in an effort to ascertain the identities of the men beating him and the reason for the beating. COLEMAN told him he did not know who beat him or why.

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[redacted] stated Chief of Police MAYNARD MANN also questioned COLEMAN and as far as he knew COLEMAN also told MANN he did not know who beat him or why.

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During the assault [redacted] vaguely recalled that Officer WILLIE WELCH of the Winter Garden Police Department walked toward the spot where the assault was taking place but did nothing about it to his recollection.

He stated that he vaguely remembers a loud report and that it could have been a gun being fired; however, he was not sure.

He advised that COLEMAN was not seriously injured or in any manner that would affect him for any length of time. He stated he had four or five gashes in his skull that required stitches and he possibly could have been suffering from a slight concussion. He himself could not recall anything derogatory about COLEMAN's activity in the area. He always looked on COLEMAN as a fairly nice fellow who got along with both negroes and whites.

He stated he is not a Klansman nor has he ever had anything to do with the Klan. He was born and reared in the south and saw quite a bit of their activities. He felt the Klan had nothing to do with the beating of LUTHER COLEMAN. He came to this conclusion as a result of his living in the south where the Klan has always been active. He advised that it was his opinion that if the Klan had attempted to get COLEMAN they would have completed the job. To his observation this beating was rather "sloppily handled". He stated that from his experience when the Klan went after someone they handled the job well. He did not condone such practices but he knew Klan beatings were more like a professional job than was COLEMAN's assault.

After explaining how the Klan used professional tactics in their beatings [redacted] was asked if he had seen or participated in any Klan beatings while he lived in the south, at which time he stated he had not even seen any but through the years and from talking to neighbors he had come to the conclusion the Klan was more professional in their beatings. He stated he could not say for sure if the Klan had anything to do with the beating of COLEMAN.

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[redacted] further stated that LUTHER COLEMAN was the only person in Winter Garden [redacted] treated for any injuries received as a result of a beating or fight. He knew of no other incidents of terrorism in Winter Garden personally and mentioned that he had heard rumors about other beatings and had read something about them in the newspaper.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 27 and 28, 1952, at Mims and Titusville, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] re-interviewed and other logical investigation conducted to prove or disprove allegation that they and [redacted] passed in front of MOORE's home the night of the bombing and observed a car or truck parked in the grove in front of MOORE's home.

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[redacted] denied that he drove his car up the Old Dixie Highway when returning from Titusville to Mims the night of December 25, 1951. He therefore denied having seen a car or truck in the grove in front of MOORE's house.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] returned via the Old Dixie Highway on his instructions because he did not want to get caught on the main highway in a drunken condition. He denied having seen a truck or car in the grove in front of MOORE's house and also denied having made any statement concerning a car or truck being parked there.

There follow the signed statements furnished by [redacted] concerning their activities the late afternoon and evening of December 25, 1951.

"March 27, 1952  
Titusville, Fla.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made to me to make this statement.

"I am [redacted] years old. I was born [redacted] at Mims, Fla. I am single. I live with my father and mother at Mims, Fla.

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MM 44-270

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"On Christmas Day in 1951, [redacted]  
[redacted]

and me went to Daytona, Fla. We left Mims in my car about 4:00 PM or 5:00 PM. I drove. We arrived at Daytona about 7:00 PM and went to the house of some relative of [redacted]. As soon as we got there we all had supper. Supper took about a half hour. After supper we all sat around and talked for about an hour.

"During the time we were there, nobody left the house. Nobody had any liquor while we were there.

"I don't know the name of the folks we visited and I don't know where they live in Daytona.

"After we finished talking [redacted] and the two kids and me got back in my car and we all came straight back to Mims. As best I can estimate we got into Mims about 9:00 PM. It has been pointed out to me that this means I would have had to drive from Daytona to Mims in a half hour, a distance of 48 miles. I'm sure I couldn't have made it in that short a time. I may have gotten to Daytona earlier than I estimated before. I do recall the sun was just about to set when we got there and it wasn't entirely dark. That would mean we left Daytona earlier. I am fairly certain, though, that we got back to Mims about 9:00 PM.

"We dropped [redacted] off at her home and the rest of us, [redacted] and me, came down into Titusville. It takes about 10 minutes to get to Titusville. We came down the new highway from Mims to Titusville.

"As soon as we got to Titusville we drove right to the liquor store, the Lucky Package Store on South St. [redacted] went into the store and bought a pint of liquor. I stayed out in the car. They came out with the pint and got into the car. Before they got into the car they drank about 1/2 of the pint and brought the other half into the car.

"There was nobody else around the store.

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MM 44-270

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"I estimate we got to the liquor store about 10:00 PM because the store was about ready to close up. I know this because I saw the lights in the store going off. I remember saying to [ ] "Looks like the store is about to close up because the lights just went out."

"After [ ] got into the car the only thing they said was "Let's go home." [ ] said that.

"As soon as he said that I started the car and we went right back to Mims. I drove straight back on the new highway. At no time did I drive on the Old Dixie Highway that passes right in front of HARRY MOORE's house.

"On the way back I said nothing. [ ] were talking but I don't know what they were talking about. I wasn't paying any attention to them.

[ ] was drunk because he was singing and staggering around. I remember [ ] telling him to, "straighten up, man." [ ] was not drunk. This was the only drink I saw either of them take while they were with me.

"At no time did I hear anyone say anything about a car or truck being parked in a grove. I did not see a car or truck parked anywhere myself.

"At no time that day was I anywhere near HARRY MOORE's house. At no time was I on the Old Dixie Highway that day.

"I never heard the bomb go off. The first I heard of the bombing was the next morning when I woke up.

"When we got back to Mims I dropped [ ] off at [ ] about 10:05 PM. I got home and was in bed at about 10:20 PM.

"I had nothing to drink all day and nite.

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MM 44-270

"I have read the above for page hand written statement aloud and i know wat they say. this statement is true as best i can remember

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"s/ [redacted]

/s/ ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ 3/27/52 S.A. F.B.I.

/s/ [redacted] 3/27/52 S.A. F.B.I."

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"March 27, 1952  
Titusville, Fla.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the FBI. No threats or promises have been made to me to make this statement.

"I am [redacted] years old. I was born [redacted] at Mims. I am married to [redacted] I live at Mims.

"Sometime during the afternoon Christmas Day, 1951, my [redacted] and me all went to Daytona. I dont know what time we all left. I do remember we stopped to get a half pint of liquor at Mr. BOBs liquor store about 3 miles above Mims on the main highway to Daytona. [redacted] and I drank it somewhere between Mims and Daytona and threw the bottle out of the car. [redacted] was driving the car.

"I remember the lights were on when we got to [redacted] relatives house in Daytona. Their name is [redacted] and they live on DeSoto street in Daytona.

"When we got there we dropped off [redacted] and the [redacted] and I went to a beer parlor nearby. We all three, had a beer and I remember playing a couple records on the juke box. We must have been there about 15 or 20 minutes more or less.

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"When we left there we came straight back to the [redacted] house, went in and ate. I had only one sandwich. [redacted] only had a sandwich. [redacted] ate a full dinner. [redacted] had already eaten.

"After [redacted] and I finished, he, [redacted] and I went into the front room and talked. The rest of the people were around the house somewhere. Nobody left the house until we all left to go home. I don't know for sure but we might have been there two or three hours.

"When we left the same ones came back together and we drove straight to Mims. When we got back we dropped [redacted] and the [redacted] at my [redacted] house. I figure this must have been about 10:30 PM or 11:00 PM.

"As soon as we dropped them off we came down to Titusville, [redacted] and I. We came down the new highway. [redacted] was driving. When we got to Titusville we went right to the liquor store on South St., the Lucky Package Store.

"When we got there [redacted] went into the store and bought the liquor. I saw [redacted] who ran the place then and another woman I can't recall in the store. The door was closed but there were dim lights on in the store. We paid \$2.95 for the pint of Burbon Delux.

[redacted] brought the pint out and gave it to [redacted] and me. I don't remember if he gave it to me or to [redacted] [redacted] drove on slowly and [redacted] and I opened the pint and each drank from it. We finished it off about two or three blocks away and threw the bottle out of the car near the church close to [redacted] house.

"After that I remember telling [redacted] to go on back to Mims by the Old Dixie highway because we didn't want to get caught with liquor in us on the new highway. I remember passing and seeing the baseball park and stands on the Old Dixie. By that time I was drunk and don't remember anything except that [redacted] took me and [redacted] back to [redacted] house. I don't know what time we got there.



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MM 44-270

"At no time do I recall seeing a car or truck anywhere along the way. I do not recall saying anything about a truck or car being in a grove anywhere along the way. I was drunk and don't remember anything. I never said anything to anyone at any time after that about seeing a truck or car that night.

"I never heard the bomb go off. I didn't know anything about the bombing until the next morning when my [ ] told [ ] and me about it.

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"I do not remember seeing any lights along the way back to Mims.

"The above four and a fraction page statement in the handwriting of SA [ ] has been read to [ ] by SA [ ]. Frequent pauses were made to ask [ ] if he understood what was read to him. Each time he signified he understood and that what was read him was true. [ ] stated he is able to read and write only a little bit, having gone through the 4th Grade only. At the conclusion of the reading he was asked if the statement was true. He stated it is.

"s/ [ ]

/s/ [ ] SA, FBI. 3-27-52  
/s/ ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ, S.A. F.B.I., 3/27/52"

During the course of both interviews which were separately conducted, the inconsistencies existing in the statements of both individuals were pointed out to them. Each steadfastly stuck to his own particular story. Neither could furnish any reason why one or the other was lying. The statements furnished by [ ] as obtained by Special Agent [ ] of the Dallas Office on March 4 and 17, 1952, were also pointed out to [ ]. Again both insisted the stories they furnished the interviewing agents were true.

[ ] noted that [ ] is at the present time planning to return to Mims in the near future to take up residence with him.

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One point in common was noted in all three statements, that all agreed they purchased liquor at the package store located in the colored quarters in Titusville. Through questioning it was determined this store is known as the Lucky Package Store and at the time the purchase was made the store was operated by one [redacted] aka [redacted] her former married name. It was noted in the statement furnished by [redacted] that the bar had closed at the time they arrived to make a purchase. [redacted] stated he commented that the store was about to close because he saw the lights going out. [redacted] was unable to recall anything about the bar closing.

[redacted] emphatically denied that the Lucky Package Store was open Christmas night. She stated the store closed around midnight the night before and did not reopen until the morning of December 26, 1951. In this connection it will be noted that local law in Titusville requires all liquor dispensing stores to be closed on Sundays and holidays. The possibility therefore exists that [redacted] did in fact sell a bottle of liquor to the [redacted] and is afraid to admit it in view of the local law.

Night patrolman [redacted] Titusville, stated he was in the neighborhood of the Lucky Package Store the entire evening of December 25, 1951, in the company of [redacted] present colored Deputy Sheriff of Brevard County. Both [redacted] and [redacted] said they do not recall seeing the [redacted] in the neighborhood that evening. They noted, however, that it was entirely possible for them to have missed the [redacted] if they were in the neighborhood of the package store for a few minutes only.

Following the interview with [redacted] he agreed to accompany Agents along the route they took that night in returning from Titusville to Mims. Starting at the Lucky Package Store which is located on South Street just east of the railroad tracks the [redacted] car headed west over the tracks to the first street intersecting South Street on the west side of the tracks which is Dummit Avenue. At that point the car turned north to Tropic Avenue. According to [redacted] it was at the corner of Tropic and Dummit Avenues that he and [redacted] finished drinking the liquor and threw the bottle out of the car on the front yard of the church located at that corner. From that point they headed west on Tropic Avenue to Park Avenue which in turn becomes the Old Dixie Highway on the outskirts of Titusville. From there the route continues straight up the Old Dixie Highway north to Mims, past MOORE's house.

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Upon returning to Mims at the completion of the above retracing of the route [redacted] mother-in-law [redacted] was interviewed at her home at Mims in the presence of [redacted]. He was requested to maintain silence during this interview. [redacted] stated that the party consisting of [redacted] and her [redacted] and [redacted] and herself left her sister's home in Daytona Beach shortly after 8:00 P.M. December 25, 1961, to return to Mims. [redacted] stated she was fairly certain of this time because she recalled glancing at a clock in her sister's home at the time they left and she recalled it was shortly after 8:00 P.M. they left. She stated they returned to Mims at a leisurely rate of speed and she was unable to recall exactly or even approximately what time they arrived at Mims.

Upon their arrival at Mims she and [redacted] and [redacted] were dropped off at her home and [redacted] went on, supposedly to the truck stop in Mims in order that [redacted] might make a long distance telephone call to Slayton, Texas. [redacted] stated she had no way of knowing how long the three were away. She did recall, however, hearing the bomb go off while they were away, although she was unable to state how long after they left or how long before they returned the bomb went off.

[redacted] was not interviewed inasmuch as investigation has disclosed that she is feeble-minded.

In connection with the above statements it will be noted that [redacted] all state they did not hear the bomb go off, while [redacted] stated she did hear it. Previous investigation in this case has disclosed numerous persons located in Titusville at the time the bomb went off who stated they did not hear the explosion. On the other hand, numerous individuals in Mims at the time stated they did hear the bomb distinctly. The possibility therefore exists that [redacted] were actually in Titusville at the time the bomb went off inasmuch as all three are in agreement they did not hear it. In addition, [redacted] at the time of reinterview stated they may have passed MOORE's home around 11:00 P.M. or later, some forty minutes or more after the bombing occurred. Also in this connection it should be noted that [redacted] Titusville; and [redacted] of Mims, as previously reported, were directly in front of the MOORE residence at the time of the explosion. [redacted] at the time of interview stated neither he nor [redacted] saw any automobiles during their trip to Mims.

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MM 44-270

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[ ] In an attempt to identify the car or truck reportedly seen by [ ] in the grove it will be recalled that [ ] was driving his father's truck and informed Deputy Sheriff [ ] of the whereabouts of the bombing during the time [ ] was attempting to locate the spot where it had occurred. [ ] on reinterview on March 28, 1952, stated that immediately after he had told [ ] that the bombing had occurred at the MOORE residence he followed [ ] in along the road leading into the MOORE yard and parked his truck immediately in front of the house about 200 yards from the Old Dixie Highway. [ ] stated he turned out the lights and accompanied Deputy [ ] in the latter's inspection of the bombing. A few minutes after he arrived and looked around he got back into his truck, continued on around the road back to the Old Dixie Highway and from there to his place of business at the new truck stop located on the main highway in Mims. [ ] stated he recalled seeing no cars pass along the Old Dixie Highway during the time he was in that vicinity.

[ ] of Mims was reinterviewed to determine if [ ] is identical with the individual known to him as ROY and who told him of an incident wherein [ ] supposedly overheard two white persons at the scene of the bombing discussing two Ford automobiles, one grey and one black, that supposedly had been seen in MOORE's orange grove the evening of the bombing. [ ] stated the name [ ] was not familiar to him but that he knew ROY lived with one [ ] who was also known as [ ] and that he resided in a house immediately back of the cold drink stand on the south side of South Street in Titusville which is just as one enters the colored quarters on the east side of the railroad tracks. He stated the ROY known to him is employed on a bridge in New Smyrna, Florida.

[ ] aka [ ] was interviewed in the same house as that in which [ ] lives. She stated [ ] is the only man who resides in that house, that he is known generally as [ ] and that he is employed as a bridge worker in New Smyrna, Florida.

On reinterview [ ] again stated he had no knowledge of any white persons saying that two Ford cars, one grey and one black, had been seen in the grove in front of MOORE's house the evening of the bombing. He also stated he did not recall ever having made such a statement to anyone.

[ ] was reinterviewed for the purpose of determining the identities of the two persons in Mims who reportedly saw a car near the victims' home the day of the bombing and who had denied this information

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to FBI Agents. [ ] at the time stated he had evidently failed to make his statements clear on initial interview and that the two individuals he had in mind at the time he made the statement were [ ] and [ ]. [ ] was unable to furnish the identities of the individuals who had furnished him this information or other information previously reported, stating that it had come to him through general street talk and he could not recall the names of the individuals who had told him. According to [ ] this information was of general knowledge in the community and he was unable to identify its original source.

[ ] stated he was unable to furnish the identity of the persons who had given him information concerning the county patrolman's car having been seen in the vicinity of MOORE's home, stating that same had been general talk in the colored quarters at Mims. As has been previously reported, [ ] stated he had heard through [ ] of Mims that two cars, black and grey Fords, bearing Brevard license tags, were seen near the MOORE residence the evening of the bombing. Subsequent interviews with [ ] and [ ] have been set forth above.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 26, 1952, at Groveland, Florida.

BASIS: Mayor ~~ELMER~~ PURYEAR interviewed to ascertain if he could furnish any information regarding MOORE's activity in and around Groveland in regard to the Groveland Rape Case.

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ELMER PURYEAR advised he had never heard of HARRY T. MOORE being in or around Groveland at any time. He stated the first time he heard of MOORE was the day following the murder at Mims. He advised he owns considerable property in the negro quarters of Groveland and that he has reliable sources of information living in the quarters. He has never heard them mention MOORE in one way or the other. He stated that if MOORE had been in Groveland and spoken to the negroes there he was sure he would have heard about it.

The only information he recalled coming from the quarters was that the negroes themselves had criticised the NAACP for spending money defending guilty people and not trying to advance the negro race.

Mr. PURYEAR stated there was no Klan activity in or around Groveland at present. A couple years ago he had seen handbills published by the Klan and heard of a cross burning somewhere between Groveland and Tavares but had no other information regarding Klan activities in the area. He stated he had been a Klansman but had dropped his membership about six years ago because of the low caliber people they were allowing into the Klan. This was prior to the Groveland incident and he had heard of no Klan activity since then. He stated that during his tenure as a Klansman he had heard of no violence or ride being participated in by its members. He stated he doubted any of the local people around Groveland would have had any incentive to kill MOORE, regardless of his alleged activity in the Groveland Rape Case.

It is to be noted that Mayor PURYEAR was of valuable assistance in the past when Bureau Agents conducted preliminary investigation of the riots in the Groveland Rape Case.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [ ] on March 25, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

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BASIS: Confidential Informant T-2 contacted in an effort to ascertain the present whereabouts of [ ] and her present husband.

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Confidential Informant T-2 advised that [ ] had married one [ ] five or six weeks ago. He stated that [ ] was until recently a soldier stationed at the Orlando Air Force Base. [ ] are now living somewhere in Virginia. He obtained this information from [ ] who had talked with [ ] who was in Winter Garden for a week-end visit and mentioned to her that she had received a letter from her daughter in Virginia, the exact location not stated.

Staff Sergeant [ ] United States Air Force Base, Statistical Section, Orlando Air Force Base, checked records which reflected that [ ] had been serving in the Army at the base as a Private 1/c until March 5, 1952, at which time he was separated from the Service. The records reflected that [ ] held service serial number [ ] and his home address was listed as [ ] Virginia. It was noted that [ ] gave the following address as the place where he could be contacted during a leave in 1951: [ ] Virginia. He was a former member of the Headquarters Service Company, 831st Engineers Aviation Battalion.

There was no record of his having been married nor of his having applied for an allotment for his wife. Sergeant [ ] advised that it would have been impossible for [ ] to have obtained an allotment for a wife if he had expected to be discharge in five or six weeks.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 22, 1952.

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BASIS: Confidential Informant T-1 telephonically contacted the Orlando Resident Agency and requested he be interviewed by Agents.

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Confidential Informant T-1 advised that one [redacted] a white man assigned to the Naval Air Station at Sanford, Florida, was an eye-witness to the beating of LUTHER COLEMAN at Winter Garden and had told night patrolman WILLIE WELCH, now deceased, the identity of one of the automobiles involved in the incident.

When T-1 was advised that witnesses were unable to place EARL J. BROOKLYN at the scene of the incident he insisted [redacted] of the Davis Drug Store in Winter Garden definitely saw and spoke to BROOKLYN behind the drug store where BROOKLYN had run after being left on the sidewalk following the beating of COLEMAN. He said that if [redacted] denied seeing BROOKLYN that evening it was because he is a business man in town and must live with these people and therefore would hesitate to make any statement which he might have to back up in testimony.

It is to be noted at this point that [redacted] has been contacted and did deny seeing EARL J. BROOKLYN on the night of February 6, 1951, when LUTHER COLEMAN was beaten.

T-1 furnished the following information of interest to the MELVIN WOMACK shooting. DORA MAE MOSBY with whom WOMACK had been living and who would possibly be able to identify the men who came for WOMACK is presently residing at 170 First Street, Troy, New York.

When questioned about the shooting of WILLIE McCOY which occurred on February 20, 1949, T-1 insisted the deceased negro's name was WILLIE VINSON and that he was known by that name to people in Oakland and Winter Garden. He understood that three white men picked up WILLIE VINSON from a



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two story juke joint in Oakland on a Saturday afternoon and after going about two blocks shot him and rolled him out of the car. He recalled this occurred just after [ ] was installed as sheriff of Orange County. It was his understanding that the death certificate for this negro read "died of a broken neck". He also understood a negro who was related to WILLIE VINSON and who made notes of the incident and should know all about the killing of VINSON is [ ] of Oakland who is a [ ] for [ ]

Regarding various individuals of interest to this investigation, T-1 furnished the following information.

Years ago CURLY BELVIN was involved in every whipping or terrorist activity in the Orlando area. It was the habit of the police to wait at his house for him to come home after someone received a beating. However, for the past four or five years CURLY BELVIN has not been involved in any incident due to ill health.

BILL BARDEN who formerly operated a cafe near the First National Bank in Winter Garden and now drives for the Patrick Packing House, used to be in the Klan for years but has not been there since 1948. To the knowledge of T-1 BARDEN was not involved in violence.

MOSE BRYANT was on the Klokann Committee for many years but never actually went out on a ride and was not involved in the violence.

As far as he understood, [ ] has never been a member of the Klan.

ROBERT "BOB" ~~MELTON~~ who lives between Winter Garden and Oakland has been an invalid suffering from heart disease for the past two or three years and therefore has not been active. Years ago he was a member of the Klan but the nature of his activity was unknown to T-1.

[ ] was and still is a close friend of EARL J. BROOKLYN and has been on a wrecking crew with the Klan operating in the Winter Garden area.

T-1 does not believe that [ ] knows anything about the terrorist activities in Winter Garden.

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RAYMOND G. HOWELL who was the Great Titan of the Klan in the Orlando area under Captain [ ] at one time is a very intelligent man who became involved in shady handling of the finances of the Klan and was suspended at one time.

[ ] was a participant in the threatening of [ ] for having negroes in a shack near his home in the Lake Mann section of Orlando. [ ] has told T-1 that the top individuals in the recent wrecking crew of the Winter Garden Klan are [ ] and [ ]. [ ] considers [ ] as one of the best "loaders" on a wrecking crew that he has ever seen in the Winter Garden area. [ ] is the smart man in the wrecking crew who does most of the casing and would know anything that was going on in the Klan in the way of violence in Winter Garden. [ ] has also told T-1 that the federal government and the FBI has absolutely no jurisdiction in any of the terrorist activities in the Orlando area and that if anyone were arrested he would have to be turned over to the county authorities. He has boasted that he might get two or three individuals and pull a job right under the nose of the FBI. He told T-1 that after [ ] became sheriff the Klan had nothing to worry about.

Late in 1948 after [ ] had been elected sheriff, twelve Klansmen, including T-1, reinstalled [ ] in the Winter Garden Klan in a ceremony held at the funeral home of F. E. LOOMIS in Winter Garden.

[ ] was suspended or banished from the Klan in 1947 for misappropriating some barbecue money.

The Klan in Winter Garden believes that ROY GUDGER has been furnishing information to the FBI. T-1 believes ROY GUDGER would double-cross his own mother for \$5.00. The Winter Garden Klan has been worried about what information Constable [ ] might have furnished the FBI.

According to T-1, [ ] never did anything but talk as far as terrorist incidents were concerned because he was never physically able to participate in a ride.

EARL BROOKLYN is supposed to have told [ ] that [ ] did not have to go back down to talk to the FBI if he did not want to. [ ] is supposed to have told BROOKLYN that he would go and speak with the FBI whenever he was invited.

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MM 44-270

The only information T-1 has regarding the beating of [redacted]  
[redacted] is that which he heard only a few weeks ago while he was in [redacted]  
[redacted] barber shop in Winter Garden. At that time [redacted] was shaving  
[redacted] who told [redacted] that he [redacted] had been interviewed  
by FBI Agents concerning the [redacted] beating. It is T-1's impression that  
WILLARD SMITH was one of the loaders in the [redacted] incident.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on March 6, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASTS [redacted] formerly [redacted] reinterviewed in order to obtain additional details concerning the beating of [redacted] to exhibit additional photographs of Klansmen and to develop, if possible, suspects who might have been involved in that incident.

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[redacted] advised the locale of his beating was in the young grove near the top of a hill just before reaching Black Lake. This locality has been described previously.

When questioned as to the possibility of WILLARD SMITH's implication in his beating, [redacted] firmly denied such could be possible inasmuch as SMITH was his best friend and that at no time prior to or subsequent to the incident did he show any indication of being involved. [redacted] was visiting [redacted] who was at that time residing temporarily at the SMITH home. The visit was spontaneous and therefore could not have been known to very many people. He had not been in the habit of visiting very often because he had been working at night for [redacted]. It should be noted he resigned from that employment at 6:00 P.M. that date. He believed he left the SMITH home well before midnight on the evening he received his beating and because his car was headed toward the grove he proceeded to leave by that route. He recalled they had heard voices from within the grove as though a car was stuck. [redacted] was worried at the time because she expected trouble from [redacted] from whom she was separated.

The "yankee talking" individual who held the gun on him at the time of his beating could not be identified by [redacted] from photographs of Klansmen in the Orlando area. He described this individual as 5'10 or 11", 140 pounds, having thinning sandy or reddish hair, slightly curly, with possibly a receding hairline or high forehead, possibly from Pennsylvania. The man who was sharp-faced wore GI white-gold frame glasses, an undershirt,

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

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possibly khaki trousers but no hat. During the time this man held the gun on him he talked as though he were interested in stressing the point that he was tough and bad and told [ ] he would shoot him if tempted.

[ ] advised she could not believe WILLARD SMITH was in any way involved in the beating of [ ]. She stated SMITH, who was formerly a very good friend of [ ] and had always been her friend, used to belong to the Klan but became disgusted with it because of its being used by certain individuals for their own interests. He no longer is associated with the Klan. He tried to straighten out [ ] at the time they were having marital difficulties. Prior to the [ ] beating she had stayed at the SMITH home from four to six weeks while obtaining her divorce from [ ].

She stated the night after [ ] received his beating WILLARD SMITH made a telephone call to [ ] telling him that what had happened the night before had better not happen again. SMITH's tone of voice was very angry and apparently when [ ] denied any knowledge of what SMITH was talking about, SMITH stated [ ] knew what he was talking about and it had better not happen again. She understood [ ] still denied any implication.

During the years she was married to [ ] he used to come home after prowling around all night and would warn her not to tell that he was out the previous night but to say he was at home. He made trips to Tallahassee to see the governor, allegedly on Klan business and frequently travelled to other cities such as Miami, Tampa and Jacksonville. She used to hear [ ] talk about fellows in the Klan in Wildwood. He used to make trips to Wildwood to see [ ] the Grand Dragon, and would leave her with [ ] while he and [ ] made side trips or visits on Klan business. Dr. SAMUEL GREEN, the leader of the Klan from Atlanta, had visited their home on several occasions. [ ]

When questioned about ADIS JERNIGAN, the only information they could furnish was that he used to wear old laced boots and work pants.

The available photographs of Klansmen were exhibited to [ ] [ ] but he was unable to identify any of them as being among his assailants.

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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents  
FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on March 21, 1952, at Ocoee, Florida.

BASIS: Interviews conducted in effort to identify large woman, possibly [redacted] who received a beating from Klansmen and to identify the incident whereby two women, allegedly school teachers from Ocoee who had been bathing nude at Fish Lake, were beaten by Klansmen.

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WILLARD SMITH had described the residence of the [redacted] as being on a street east of the railroad tracks and the first street east of the main hard road in Ocoee. Contact was made at the described residence and it was learned it was occupied by one [redacted] who claimed he has resided at that address for ten years. [redacted] stated the only [redacted] family he knew in Ocoee was [redacted]

It was observed that [redacted] in no way resembles the woman victim [redacted] described by WILLARD SMITH.

[redacted] was interviewed to ascertain if he knew a woman named [redacted] who received a beating or if he knew of any incident in which a person received a beating under the circumstances described by WILLARD SMITH. He advised he knew of no such incident and, in fact, the only woman known to him named [redacted] was a tall thin woman who had no growing children and resided in an old company house west of the railroad tracks and who had left Ocoee over ten years ago. He had never known that woman to live in the vicinity of the house described to him as previously described by SMITH.

He vaguely recalled that years ago several women school teachers were whipped for bathing nude in Fish Lake just outside Ocoee. He believed some policeman from Orlando was involved in that incident but could not be more specific and could not recall the time other than that it was six to ten years ago.

JPS:egh  
MM 44-270

[redacted] acting postmaster at Ocoee, who has resided in Ocoee all her life was unable to furnish any information that would assist in identifying the above described incidents.

[redacted] proprietor of a drug store and formerly a deputy sheriff of Orange County until about 1948, was unable to furnish any information regarding the incident involving two school teachers but stated he recalled an incident in which a widow received a beating. He could not recall her name but believed she lived in a house near the tracks (possibly the same as described by [redacted] [redacted] mentioned that there was a strong organization in the area (the Klan) and that it would not have done him any good to investigate that incident or any other incident of a terrorist nature.

It was evident [redacted] was in fear of the Klan.

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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents  
JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on March 7, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] of Orange  
County, Florida, until the end of 1948, inter-  
viewed regarding the Clarcona incident in which  
a woman and her daughter were flogged, and about  
any other terrorist incident and the terrorist  
element in the Orlando area.

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[redacted] who presently resides at Pinecastle, Florida,  
was interviewed at the Orlando Resident Agency and furnished the following  
information.

Regarding the incident in which a woman and her daughter were  
beaten at Clarcona, Florida, he said the incident of the flogging started  
in Ocoee and the women were carried to Clarcona where they received the  
flogging. He ascertained the identity of about four of the white men who  
were responsible although he was not able to prosecute them because the two  
white women witnesses had promised to testify but had left the county with-  
out signing a complaint against the men.

He observed that while he was sheriff the majority of persons  
in the county behaved themselves but there were about four or five who  
took advantage and behaved like hoodlums.

When instant case involving the bombing and killing of HARRY T.  
MOORE at Mims was explained to [redacted] together with the statement that two  
men had been identified as being in Mims inquiring about MOORE prior to  
the bombing, [redacted] made the observation "they live in Winter Garden",  
indicating it was his belief that if there were any terrorist activity it  
would originate in a place like Winter Garden.

In further discussing the Clarcona incident he advised that the  
two victims had recognized four of their assailants and had identified all  
four, among them being [redacted] characterized as



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MM 44-270

a "sorry scoundrel", the ringleader of the outfit, and [redacted] He was unable to recall or identify from available photographs the other two men identified by the women. He stated the results of his investigation were kept by him in his personal file and after his defeat in the 1948 election he had destroyed the file. He believed that the two unrecalled individuals came from Winter Garden and Ocoee.

After he realized he would be unable to successfully prosecute the four men he called them into his office and threatened them with the penitentiary. Thereafter [redacted] resigned from the Klan; however, he believed that even if [redacted] is not a member of the Klan he still knows what is going on at Winter Garden insofar as terrorist activities are concerned. It was his belief that [redacted] would be the weakest man in the terrorist group in the Winter Garden area.

EARL BROOKLYN, although not involved in the Clarcona incident, was the roughest of the terrorist group and with his close buddy [redacted] led the gang of terrorist Klansmen. TILLMAN BELVIN and [redacted] were also in the terrorist group. [redacted] believed there were a few from the Apopka area who might have been involved in terrorist activities but he was unable to furnish any names of the persons he suspected. He stated a man named [redacted] was a vicious person who was probably involved in the Clarcona incident. He recalled that this man operated a grocery next to the Ocoee Post Office.

MOSE BRYANT was the town marshall and mayor of Ocoee and knew what was going on.

[redacted] used to be engaged in terrorist activities but was probably quieted down as a result of the murder case in Tampa in which he and [redacted] were brought to trial.

[redacted] of Winter Garden drinks quite a bit, does not have too much sense and should know what is going on in the Klan in Winter Garden.

[redacted] who operates a grocery at Winter Garden should be a man who would be able to furnish information about terrorist activities in that area.

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MM 44-270

When questioned about [redacted] and his associates, persons in the Sanford area [redacted] advised that LLOYD HATCH was a bootleg fisherman of Sanford who fished with [redacted] around the Mims area and along the St. Johns River just west of Mims and Titusville. He believed that [redacted] of Sanford would know of the activities of the [redacted] group. He had never know of any of these bootleg fishermen using dynamite.

[redacted] advised he would attempt to recall the identity of the other two men involved in the Clarcona incident and the names of the two women victims who were involved and would furnish same to the FBI.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and JAMES P. SHANNON on March 31, 1952, at Ocoee, Florida.

BASIS: RAYMOND GLENN HOWELL, former Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando Klavern and allegedly closely associated with [redacted] interviewed.

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RAYMOND GLENN HOWELL advised he first joined the Klan in 1945 and that he dropped out in March, 1948. He was not sure of the exact date but believed March, 1948 was most nearly correct. He stated that at the time he quit he had just terminated his tenure as Exalted Cyclops. He advised he had no particular reason for dropping his membership but that it was a series of events coupled with his age that caused him to drop his activities in the Klan. He stated at the meetings members would bring up matters, debates would start and when the meeting was over nothing would have been accomplished. He began to believe that it was a waste of time and that he could accomplish nothing. He denied his attitude had anything to do with the election of officers of whom he disapproved.

Upon thinking over his membership he decided he was a member from 1945 to 1949 and not 1948. He claimed he could not remember too well because of the lapse of time. He emphatically denied he was a member of the organization in 1950 and stated that he was not secretary of the Klavern that year. He further stated that during his membership he held the following offices: Exalted Cyclops, secretary and night hawk, the person who stood at the door to take the password.

HOWELL stated the Klavern to which he belonged at Winter Garden was affiliated with the Florida Klan and later the Association of Georgia Klans. He said the group met on Monday nights in the frame building on Lake Sherwood. The concrete block building was being constructed at the time he joined. To his knowledge there was no other Klavern meeting in the building on any other night of the week. He admitted that on occasion he visited the Apopka Klavern but did not say how often, who he saw at the meetings or when they visited.

RTN:egh  
MM 44-270

He advised he knew Dr. SAMUEL GREEN but said nothing else about their association. He stated he was not instrumental in organizing the Florida Klan, that it was in operation when he first joined.

HOWELL claimed he was never banished or suspended from the Klan at any time. He denied anyone approached him in the last few days to warn him to say nothing to Bureau Agents.

He advised that at no time during his association with the Klan did he participate in any type of violence nor had he heard of any violence planned. He insisted he did not approve of such tactics and that at no time did he hear the name HARRY T. MOORE mentioned at any meetings. He did not hear of any occasions when floor plans were displayed to any members in Winter Garden or Apopka. He never heard of MOORE until after his death. Then he read about it in the newspaper.

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He claimed he never took a trip with [redacted] on Klan business through the state of Florida. On one occasion he took a trip to various parts of the state on Klan business but he denied [redacted] went with him on this trip as an official representative of the Klan. Rather, [redacted] was hired to furnish the transportation.

When questioned about EARL J. BROOKLYN he immediately advised he had taken an oath and would not mention any member of the Klan. He stated BELVIN, BROOKLYN [redacted] were splendid fellows but he would not comment further on them. When asked if BROOKLYN ever visited the Apopka Klavern he refused to answer.

He insisted no violence occurred while he was in the Klan and he heard of no violence in the Winter Garden area. It was pointed out to him that almost everyone in Winter Garden had heard of acts of violence in the area and such were still topics of conversation. He then admitted he had heard of some but knew nothing other than what he read in the papers. He stated that about ten days previously [redacted] had approached him and asked if he were interested in buying her taxi stand. He asked why she was selling out and she told him her husband wanted to get away from Winter Garden. In response to questioning she told him of the severe beating [redacted] had received some time ago. He stated this was the first he heard of the beating.

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MM 44-270

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He claimed he was not in Groveland during the riots. The only time he was there was years ago when he helped build a church and the only information he had about the riots was from the newspapers. He stated he was not a close associate of [redacted] He knew [redacted] and had worked with him as [redacted] on a job but that was some time ago.

The following is a description of HOWELL as obtained from observation and interrogation:

Name	<i>RAYMOND GLENN HOWELL</i>
Age	60
Birth date	August 23, 1891
Birthplace	Waynesville, North Carolina
Height	5'9"
Weight	140
Hair	brown, greying, mostly bald
Eyes	blue, wears rimless glasses
Wife	[redacted] Married Dalton, Georgia, 1929
Daughter	[redacted] employed First National Bank, Orlando
Address	Box 953, Ocoee, Florida
Parents	ELLIS JEROME and LULA VINSON HOWELL, both deceased
Brothers	[redacted] Asheville, North Carolina [redacted] Brevard, North Carolina [redacted] Haywood, North Carolina [redacted] Miami, Florida
Sisters	
Occupation	cab driver for [redacted]
Previous employment	carpenter for Phillips Industries, Orlando; operated small loan business in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1931 and 1932 Ocoee and Winter Garden, Florida, 12 years; Eustis, Florida, 18 years
Former residence	U. S. Army, 1918 1332609
Military record	
ASN	
Scars and marks	2 moles, one right side forehead, one right side temple

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [REDACTED] on April 1, 1952, at Winter Garden, Florida.

BASIS: [REDACTED] reportedly past Exalted Cyclops of the Winter Garden Klan, interviewed concerning information he might have regarding instant case and suspects in instant case.

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[REDACTED] advised he is presently the Exalted Cyclops of the Winter Garden Klavern of the the Association of Georgia Klans. He stated he was not the Exalted Cyclops in 1951.

At the beginning of the interview [REDACTED] stated he was relying on his oath as a Klansman and would not divulge the names of members of his Klavern or other Klaverns. He advised he would assist interviewing Agents in any way possible but he would not reveal names.

He advised that he had no information in regard to any acts of terrorism that had occurred in the Winter Garden-Orlando-Apopka area. He stated he knew nothing about them other than what he read in the papers and what was discussed in the streets. He advised that in the MELVIN WOMACK killing he served on the coroner's jury and asked for an autopsy to ascertain the exact cause of death. The coroner's jury did a little investigating and failed to find out what WOMACK had done in the community to cause anyone to take his life. They found no reason for his murder.

[REDACTED] advised that at no time had he ever heard HARRY T. MOORE discussed in a meeting of the Klan nor had he ever heard of house plans being displayed at a Klan meeting or immediately following a Klan meeting.

He stated that he was not a man of violence, that he considered himself an upright citizen of the community and that if he had any knowledge that such acts of terrorism were going to take place he would have notified the law and let them handle the situation.

RTN:egh  
MM 44-270

He stated that if he thought any member of his organization were involved in any of these acts of terrorism he himself would drop out of the Klan and do all in his power to see that such acts were stopped.

He advised that he knew EARL BROOKLYN but that he would not say whether or not EARL was at any Klan meetings and further stated he knows him just to speak, is not a close friend and as far as he knows BROOKLYN he could say nothing derogatory about his character or activities. As far as TILMAN BELVIN is concerned [ ] stated he had met him two years ago but knows very little about him. He claimed he has seen neither BROOKLYN nor BELVIN at a Klan meeting. He stated he knows J. B. JOHNSON slightly and refused to say whether he was at any meeting of the Klan.

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He refused to comment on [ ] merely stating he knew them.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 28, 1952, at LaGrange, Titusville, Florida.

BASIS: [redacted] interviewed to ascertain any information in his possession regarding instant bombing, and to ascertain his whereabouts and the whereabouts of [redacted] on December 25, 1951.

\*\*\*

[redacted] stated he [redacted] had been visiting at the home of [redacted] during the afternoon of December 25, 1951, and that they left for their home at LaGrange which is located between Titusville and Mims just off the Old Dixie Highway. He stated he and his wife arrived at their home shortly after 5:00 P.M. and remained there the rest of the evening. They retired about 9:30 PM.

He stated that neither he nor his wife heard the explosion and knew nothing about the bombing until the following morning when they were told by neighbors that HARRY MOORE's home had been bombed and that he had been killed.

[redacted] stated he had no information of value to instant investigation but he would be happy to furnish such information should it come to his attention at any time in the future.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and JAMES P. SHANNON on March 31, 1952, at Ocoee, Florida.

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BASIS: [ ] interviewed inasmuch as he was reportedly Exalted Cyclops of the Winter Garden Klan in 1950.

\*\*\*

[ ] advised he has not been in the Klan for three or four years. He stated his Klan membership consists of merely paying his dues. He has not participated in a meeting since 1948. His only reason for his membership in that year was to collect a few votes for [ ] and was merely a political move.

He advised that to his knowledge he is the only person in the Orlando-Winter Garden-Ocoee area who has the name [ ] He knows of no other persons with similar names in the area.

He was constable in Winter Garden for sixteen years but gave up that position to devote more time to his grove business.

At the time of his membership in the Klan he believed RAYMOND G. HOWELL was Exalted Cyclops although he was not sure. He stated he first joined eighteen years ago and has been active and inactive during that time until four years ago when he dropped out. He advised that his membership in the Klan was very active when FRED BASS was alive but since BASS' death he has had little interest except along political lines in the Klan.

[ ] could not recall when the split came between the Florida Klans or when it went over to the Association of Georgia Klans. He stated that one of his memberships was in the Klavern from Winter Garden. EARL BROOKLYN belonged to the same Klavern as he at that time. They held their meetings in the old Post Office Building.

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[ ] admitted being on one ride about fifteen years ago. He could not recall who was with him or much of the circumstances of the ride. He did recall that a negro preacher and deacon were involved. They had stolen some clothes. Klansmen took them to Spring Lake which is just outside Ocoee. He believed there were about a dozen Klansmen in the group. He recalled that neither negro received a beating but they were badly frightened after a severe talking-to. He advised he never heard of EARL BROOKLYN being on a ride and he never heard who was involved in the atrocities committed in the Winter Garden area, stating his information about them came from newspapers and rumors.

He has not seen EARL BROOKLYN for five or six years except to wave in passing on the road and not stopping to talk. He stated he was never at the Apopka Klavern and could not say whether or not BROOKLYN was there. He advised he was relying on his oath not to reveal any names of fellow Klansmen but would tell all he could about any man he knew and that he had been disassociated from the Klan so long his information as to who is presently a member would be faulty.

[ ] stated [ ] was known to him but he knew of no activity of [ ] in any acts of violence. He recalled no one being killed by the Klan while he was in office and stated only one murder was unsolved during his tenure as constable and that was when a young man, STANLEY ROPER, was found shot to death alongside the road. ROPER, according to [ ] was a white man and his death occurred some time ago.

He did not know [ ] or TILLMAN BELVIN and knew J. B. JOHNSON only through his sewing machine business with no knowledge of his activities.

[ ] recalled that one year during his days as constable he and about five others were paid to go to Tampa for the election and the men were deputized to keep order. They were stationed around Columbia Drive near the Spanish quarters. He insisted they were not there to take anyone for a ride or to beat anyone but just to maintain order during the election. He advised this was about fourteen years ago.

He was not involved in the killing that occurred in Tampa a few years later when some of the Winter Garden people were involved. He had heard that the victim was a negro labor organizer and he recalled that

RTN:egh  
MM 44-270

ED SPIVEY, [ ] and [ ] were arrested. However, to his knowledge they were not held but were released without charges being pressed against them. He advised he did not know whether [ ] was implicated in that particular killing or not.

[ ] denied being an active member of the Klan after 1948. He stated he did not care to be involved with the Klan in any manner as he did not have time for it. He believed that if the Klan were operated according to the by-laws and oath it would be a good organization. However, there were some low caliber people being accepted into the Klan during the last few years and he did not approve of this. He advised his grove business and his caretaking business require too much of his time for him to belong to any social or other organization.

In all the time he was associated with the Klan he never participated in but one ride which he previously mentioned. He advised that sometimes he was approached by one of the secretaries or treasurers and asked if he were going to pay his dues. If he had the money in his pocket he paid up for the year but if not he did not pay. He again insisted the latest year he had any active association in the Klan was 1948 and that only for political purposes.

[ ] advised he had not heard of HARRY T. MOORE until after MOORE's death and never heard MOORE discussed at any time, nor did he ever hear of house plans being displayed anywhere in the area. He said that should he come upon any information regarding instant case he would advise Bureau Agents at once.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES B. HAFLEY on March 11, 1952.

BASIS: Information received that MOORE corresponded With Governor FULLER WARREN regarding registration of negro voters in Florida.

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Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, [redacted]  
[redacted] HARRY T. MOORE and Governor FULLER WARREN of Florida,  
[redacted] that MOORE had communicated with the governor on numerous occasions regarding the registration of negroes in the State of Florida. He stated that to his knowledge the governor had never had any investigation conducted regarding MOORE in Madison County, at Mims or elsewhere in the state.

In March, 1950 MOORE wrote to Governor WARREN regarding the registration of negro voters in Madison County and elsewhere in Florida where MOORE claimed intimidation was still very strong and asked the governor to use whatever force and steps were necessary to make sure that negroes in Madison County and other "tough counties" were able to register and vote in the primaries that year. According to T-3 [redacted]  
[redacted]

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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent H. WAYNE SWINNEY on March 21, 1952, at Eustis, Florida.

BASIS: [REDACTED]  
interviewed for information he might have relative victim MOORE and instant bombing.

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[REDACTED] Eustis Vocational School, advised he could furnish no information relative the activities of MOORE or the reason for instant bombing. He stated he had only met MOORE on one occasion, that being over a year ago and he knew nothing concerning MOORE's personal life and activities.

He suggested interview with [REDACTED] a local teacher at the Eustis Vocational School, who, according to [REDACTED] was head of the NAACP at Eustis and might possibly have information of interest.

[REDACTED] stated he had no information relative MOORE's recent activities and did not believe MOORE had been in Lake County in the past year. He stated he could give no reason for instant bombing and both he and [REDACTED] advised that should any information come to their attention relative instant case they would immediately advise the Miami Office.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and [REDACTED] on March 29, 1952, at Orlando, Florida.

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BASIS: JOE N. COX reinterviewed for information in his possession regarding Klan membership of the Association of Georgia Klans inasmuch as he was reportedly secretary as recently as one year ago and a present member.

\*\*\*

JOE N. COX, Medlock Tractor Company, on reinterview advised that he had left the Association of Georgia Klans two years ago and then joined the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He stated he could not name any of the members of either Klan organization because of his oath as a Klansman. He stated he did not have any records of the Klan and had no records since five years ago. When the Florida Klan transferred to the Georgia Klans the records were destroyed. He continually relied on his oath to the Klan and would not name any of its members and advised that he has not been affiliated with or active in the Southern Knights for the past three months. He did not know HARRY T. MOORE and never heard of him until his death. He stated he had never seen any house plans nor heard any plans discussed relative rides or floggings.

It will be noted that during the course of the interview COX repeatedly professed great willingness to assist in any way possible in instant investigation, although he constantly maintained his immunity to furnishing information about the Klan based on his Klan oath.

COX continually asked if the evidence collected by the FBI would hold up in court. He attributed his inquisitiveness regarding the evidence to human nature and emphatically denied this was a point of discussion at any Klan meeting.

In connection with this individual it will be noted he committed suicide on Sunday, March 30, 1952, for reasons unknown. Chief of Police CARL BUCHANAN of Winter Park, Florida, advised COX did not leave a suicide note and his family is unable to offer any explanation for his action. At the time of interview COX displayed no suicidal tendencies whatsoever and appeared to be in good spirits as well as cooperative with the exception of maintaining his immunity because of his oath.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted]  
[redacted] and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on March 28, 1952, at Mims, Florida.

BASIS: Photographs of [redacted] and others  
exhibited to [redacted]  
[redacted]

for possible identification of man who inquired at  
Mims regarding MOORE's residence on May 17, 1951.

\*\*\*

A large group of photographs, including those of [redacted]  
[redacted] of the new Mims truck stop, were displayed to the the above named  
individuals. This group included photographs of the following:

[redacted]	ADIS JERNIGAN
TILLMAN HOLLEY BELVIN	[redacted]
[redacted]	JAMES B. JOHNSON
[redacted]	[redacted]
EARL J. BROOKLYN	SIMON SMITH MANNING
[redacted]	
ROY GUDGER	[redacted]
[redacted]	
RAYMOND G. HOWELL	
[redacted]	

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None of the persons to whom the above listed photographs were exhibited was able to effect identification from any of these photographs as to the individual or individuals who came inquiring as to MOORE on May 17, 1951, at the Mims Confectionery Store.

[redacted] again selected the photograph of EARL BROOKLYN as one of the individuals who resembled the shorter of the two men who appeared at the Mims Confectionery Store on the evening of May 17, 1951. He stated that BROOKLYN resembled the shorter of the two men as he is the same build but he can not positively state BROOKLYN is identical with the shorter man nor would he be willing to so testify under oath.

All of these people recognized the photograph of [redacted] and all stated that they have had an opportunity to observe [redacted] personally since they were last interviewed. All stated he was not either of the two men who appeared in the store the night of May 17, 1951. [redacted] at this time stated he recalls that he has seen [redacted] on one or two occasions at the Mims Confectionery Store and because of this he is very confident [redacted] is not one of the two men who appeared and inquired as to the whereabouts of MOORE. He stated in this regard to the best of his recollection [redacted] was once at the store after May 17, 1951, at which time the two as yet unidentified individuals were inquiring regarding MOORE. In this connection it is noted also that [redacted] have also advised they recall [redacted] appeared at the store on one occasion at which time he brought with him a colored employee of his truck stop. According to the [redacted] the purpose of [redacted] trip to the Mims Confectionery Store was to purchase a pair of work trousers for the colored employee. They stated that both recall this incident very clearly and pointed out that [redacted] is not identical with either of the two men who inquired as to the whereabouts of MOORE.

P E N D I N G



TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

INDEX

PAGES

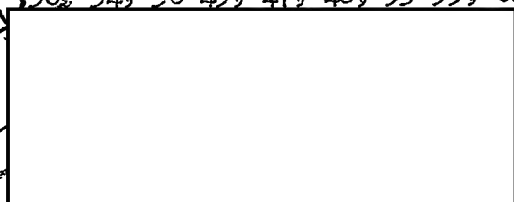
[REDACTED]	115, 116
[REDACTED]	See [REDACTED]
AUTOMOBILES	
1941 DeSoto convertible, faded blue-grey	73
1947 or 1948 Chrysler convertible, light blue	76
1948 Studebaker sedan, green	76
1949 or 1950 green Mercury sedan	73
[REDACTED]	49-52
[REDACTED]	49, 50, 52
BALLARD, WALTER	19, 23, 40, 47
BARDEN, BILL	6, 12, 17-19, 23, 29, 40, 93
[REDACTED]	50
[REDACTED]	65, 66
BASS, FRED	48, 109
[REDACTED]	101
[REDACTED]	88
[REDACTED]	76
[REDACTED]	76
[REDACTED]	49-52
BELVIN, TILMAN HOLLEY "CURLY"	4, 14, 15, 30, 35, 37, 38, 42-49, 51-53, 55, 70, 93, 101, 104, 107, 110, 115
[REDACTED]	49, 51, 52
[REDACTED]	49, 51, 52
[REDACTED]	74, 115
[REDACTED]	31
[REDACTED]	100-102
BOGAR, WILLIAM "BILL"	42-44
[REDACTED]	91
[REDACTED]	65
[REDACTED]	39
[REDACTED]	6, 13, 16, 19, 28, 31, 32, 39, 47, 94, 95, 101, 115
[REDACTED]	31, 93, 115
[REDACTED]	73-75, 92
[REDACTED]	71
[REDACTED]	40

b6  
b7c

TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

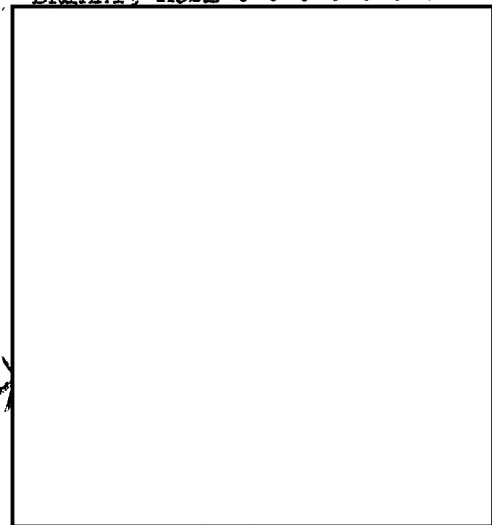
b6  
b7C

BROOKLYN, EARL J. . . 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23-26, 28,  
30, 34, 36-45, 47, 48, 53-55, 64, 92-94, 101, 104, 107, 109, 110, 115, 116



. . . . . 38  
. . . . . 31, 38, 40, 41, 115  
. . . . . See Earl Brooklyn  
. . . . . 16, 27, 31, 55, 97  
. . . . . 97  
. . . . . 113

BRYANT, MOSE . . . . .



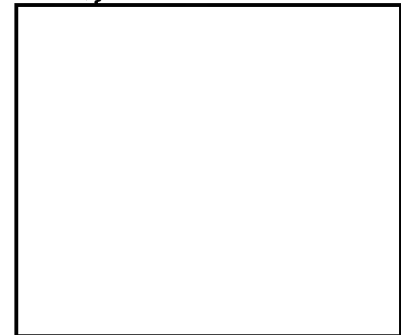
. . . . . 6, 17, 23, 46, 93, 101  
. . . . . 114  
. . . . . 31  
. . . . . 115, 116  
. . . . . 115, 116  
. . . . . 74, 75  
. . . . . 83, 84, 87  
. . . . . 101  
. . . . . 71  
. . . . . 74  
. . . . . 75  
. . . . . 38  
. . . . . 26, 27, 31, 37-39, 95-97, 104  
. . . . . 27, 37, 39, 96, 97, 104  
. . . . . 76  
. . . . . 76  
. . . . . 71

COLEMAN, LUTHER . . . . .



. . . . . 5, 6, 31, 68-70, 71 (description), 73, 76-79, 92  
. . . . . 28, 38  
. . . . . 4

COX, JOE N. . . . .



. . . . . 114  
. . . . . 50  
. . . . . 65  
. . . . . 109-111  
. . . . . 6, 31  
. . . . . 6, 9-12, 15, 19, 23, 26, 30, 39, 45-47, 94, 101  
. . . . . 103, 105, 115  
. . . . . 46, 92  
. . . . . 111  
. . . . . 47  
. . . . . 5

b6  
b7C

TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

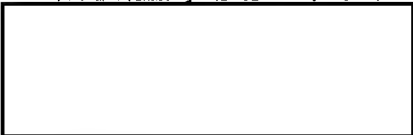
	26-28, 37-40, 55, 56, 61-63, 75, 96, 97, 104, 115
	91
	6
	5, 15, 16, 31
	29, 46
	30, 115
	6, 46
	38
	38
	19, 98
	115
	16, 20
	47, 101, 111
	115
	See [REDACTED]
	29
	5
	6
	5
GREEN, DR. SAMUEL	4, 14, 25, 28, 97, 104
GREENHALGH, CARL	11
GUDGER, ROY	6, 17, 19, 23, 26, 27, 39, 94, 115
	14, 25, 26, 94
	30, 36, 94, 101, 115
	5
	84, 86
	115
	15
	28, 29, 95
	6, 31, 46, 106, 107
HATCH, LLOYD	31, 47, 102
	115
	37
	6, 45
HOWELL, RAYMOND GLENN	6, 27, 45-47, 55, 94, 103-105, 109, 115
	5, 115
	16
	6, 15, 31
	29

TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

b6  
b7C



JERNIGAN, ADIS



JOHNSON, JAMES B.



JOHNSON, O. C.



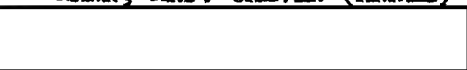
LOOMIS, F. E.



LUCAS

MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF?

MANN, MRS. CALVIN (ANNIE)



MANNING, SIMON SMITH



108  
108  
108  
19, 31, 115  
14, 15, 35, 40, 48, 74  
65, 66  
31, 47  
6, 31, 47, 97, 115  
94  
6  
19  
31  
5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 25, 30, 35, 37, 38, 47, 107, 110, 115  
52  
9  
88, 89  
6, 30, 35, 39, 43, 44, 94, 104, 107, 110, 115  
93  
25, 47, 101, 111  
65  
88, 89  
31  
115  
28, 31, 39, 40, 115  
28  
34, 35  
30, 45, 47, 94  
11  
9  
65  
40, 41  
69-71, 73, 78  
93  
36, 37, 115  
6, 12, 15, 26, 30, 46, 93, 115  
80-83, 85-88  
80, 83-87  
80-87  
20, 43, 74, 115  
37, 91

b6  
b7C

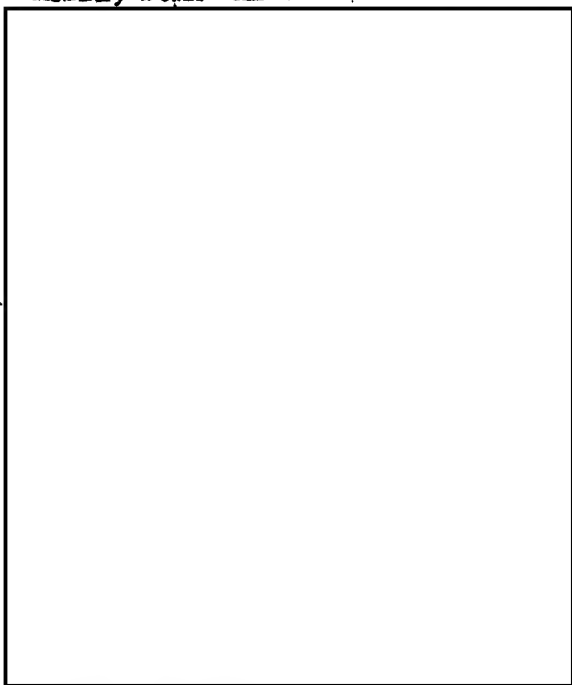
TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

MELTON, ROBERT "BOB" . . . . .



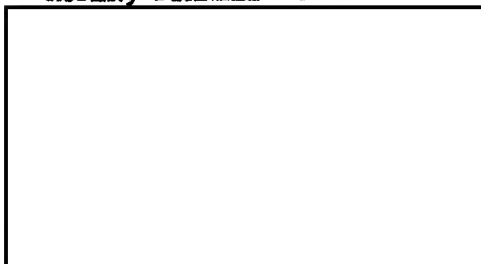
. . . . . 9, 30, 93  
. . . . . 29  
. . . . . 86  
. . . . . 88  
. . . . . 83, 84  
. . . . . 115  
. . . . . 88, 89  
. . . . . 115  
. . . . . 67

MOSBY, DORA MAE . . . . .



. . . . . 71, 92  
. . . . . 31  
. . . . . 86  
. . . . . 102  
. . . . . 68  
. . . . . 15  
. . . . . 87  
. . . . . 112  
. . . . . 29  
. . . . . 69, 73, 76-79  
. . . . . 113  
. . . . . 89  
. . . . . 99  
. . . . . 90  
. . . . . 6, 14, 15, 31, 46, 115  
. . . . . 16, 115  
. . . . . 31, 115  
. . . . . 19, 20, 24  
. . . . . 87  
. . . . . 62  
. . . . . 71  
. . . . . 54

ROPER, STANLEY . . . . .



. . . . . 110  
. . . . . 68  
. . . . . 36, 37  
. . . . . 6, 31, 94  
6, 9-12, 15, 17-21, 23-26, 29, 30, 35, 37, 38,  
43-47, 53, 54, 70, 94, 104, 107, 110, 115  
. . . . . 19, 23, 98  
. . . . . 98, 99  
. . . . . 98

TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

[REDACTED]	71
See [REDACTED]	69
	115
	28
	88
	26, 31
	28, 29
SMITH, WILLARD . . . . .	3, 6, 10-12, 17-22, 24-31, 32 (description), 33, 39, 46, 95-98
SPIVEY, ED . . . . .	111
[REDACTED]	28, 37, 93, 94
	36
STEVENS, R. G. . . . .	43
	50, 51
[REDACTED]	52
	9, 115
	3-5, 6 (description), 8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25, 40
	81, 83, 87
	12
	31
	115
	74
	6, 31, 68, 109
VINSON, WILLIE (McCOY) . . . . .	28, 92, 93
	68-70
[REDACTED]	16, 31, 43, 115
	6, 11, 14, 30, 47, 93, 100-102
	84
	89
	55, 65, 112
	115, 116
WEISNER, JOE . . . . .	12
WELCH, WILLIE . . . . .	69, 70, 73, 74, 78, 92
	99
[REDACTED]	See [REDACTED]
	115
	6, 12, 14, 31
	63, 64
WOMACK, MELVIN . . . . .	37, 71, 92, 106
	28, 37
[REDACTED]	37
	71

TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Confidential Informant T-1 is [ ] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

T-2 is [ ] who has requested that hereafter his identity be kept confidential.

T-3 is [ ] whose identity should be kept confidential.

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LEADS

NORFOLK OFFICE

AT [ ] VIRGINIA

Will interview [ ]

[ ] in accordance with the lead set out in Miami letter to the Director dated April 5, 1952.

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MIAMI OFFICE

AT APOPKA, FLORIDA

Will attempt to identify the terrorist incident whereby WILLARD SMITH's car was used on a ride, his license number having been obtained by someone, and [ ] also involved, according to information furnished by [ ]

AT OAKLAND, FLORIDA

Will contact [ ] negro, relative of WILLIE VINSON, aka McCoy, who was reportedly killed by Klansmen February 20, 1949. [ ] for [ ] Winter Garden, allegedly knows the full details of the death of VINSON.

TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

Will consider the advisability of interviewing ROBERT MELTON concerning terrorist activities in which he has been involved in the past. MELTON is reportedly invalided with a serious heart condition.

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AT OCOEE, FLORIDA

Will interview MOSE BRYANT, formerly mayor and town marshal, to obtain information regarding terrorist activities in the area. It should be noted he was on the Klokann Committee of the Winter Garden Klan and a behind-the-scenes man in terrorist activities according to WILLARD SMITH.

Will interview [redacted] who operated a grocery next to the Post Office and was reported to be a vicious individual, probably engaged in the Clarcona terrorist incident.

AT ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Will interview CARL GREENHALGH, block mason, presently or previously employed as a civilian at the Orlando Air Base, concerning his participation in terrorist activities.

Will interview CLARENCE LONGLEY, who operates a restaurant on Bumby and South, concerning terrorist activities in which he engaged as a Klansman.

Will interview [redacted] of the Florida Sanitarium regarding his records of hospitalization or treatment of EARL BROOKLYN and TILLMAN BELVIN.

Will develop the terrorist incident wherein one LUCAS was taken on a ride by the wrecking crew consisting of BROOKLYN, [redacted] BOB MELTON, [redacted] O. C. JOHNSON and [redacted]

Will interview [redacted] who is alleged to know the [redacted] family and their associates and was formerly an informant of Sheriff [redacted] of Orange County.

AT WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA

Will interview [redacted] who owns a grocery on Main Street who might be able to furnish information regarding terrorist activities in the area.



TEM:egh  
MM 44-270

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Will develop the terrorist incident reported by [redacted] of a man and woman taken on a ride by BROOKLYN, [redacted] and possibly WILLARD SMITH or [redacted]

Will interview [redacted] for any records he may have of hospitalization or treatment of BELVIN or BROOKLYN.

Will interview BILL BARDEN, truck driver for Patrick Packing House, concerning his participation in terrorist activities, noting he allegedly has not been in the Klan since 1948.

Will develop the terrorist incident of a neighbor of [redacted] being taken on a ride by BROOKLYN, [redacted] and either [redacted] or WILLARD SMITH.

Will develop the terrorist incident of a negro man taken from the ice plant by CARL GREENHALGH, CLARENCE LONGLEY, [redacted] and possibly one other man.

Will develop the incident of a white man, possibly named [redacted] who was picked up off the main street of Winter Garden, the finger men being [redacted] and BILL BARDEN, and taken on a ride by J. B. JOHNSON, [redacted] and [redacted] for allegedly [redacted]

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [redacted] Miami, 3-24-52  
Numerous telephone calls from the Bureau to Miami and numerous teletypes and letters between Miami and the Bureau as well as Miami and auxiliary offices.